



LAST WEEK'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 466,000

No 63,123

Arch-rivals in showdown at the Kremlin Gorbachov plans force open conference clash

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Communist Party conference reached its climax yesterday with a showdown between the hero and anti-hero of perestroika - Mr Boris Yeltsin and Mr Yegor Ligachov.

before the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. He said that he had taken to heart what had happened and asked the party conference to review the decision to remove him from the leadership.

Mr Ligachov's remarks is that he and the other three members of the Politburo he named changed sides to ensure Mr Gorbachov's election.

Moscow (AFP) - The conference closed yesterday with votes in favour of six resolutions relating to perestroika and reforms of Soviet society.

Tough task

secretary of the Moscow Communist Party and a candidate member of the Politburo.

Mr Yegor Ligachov, who spoke later in the day, addressed Mr Yeltsin by name.

Mr Ligachov, who has often been thought to have strongly anti-reformist views, said he too had suffered because of the cult of the personality - the code used to describe Stalin's purges.

He attacked Mr Yeltsin's political record when he was a party leader in Siberia, saying: "Boris, you ran a region for nine years, and the only thing they got were food stamps."

Mr Ligachov also gave an unusual insight into what went on after the death of Konstantin Chernenko in March, 1985, when Mr Gorbachov was elected leader.

"We lived through difficult times in March 1985. Without me, Chibrikov, Solomensev and Gromyko, we would not have found a solution."

The suggestion contained in the killing of the three unnamed terrorists, who were planning to explode a huge car bomb.

"Our case will be much better presented if they do appear," said one Foreign Office source. "They are the star witnesses and by giving evidence in person they will be able to bring out further argument for their actions."

But he insisted that their lives and those of their families would be at risk if they were identified at the inquest. Lawyers representing the Government will therefore propose measures to ensure the anonymity of the SAS witness at Monday's preliminary hearing of the inquest.

Mr John Laws, Treasury Counsel appearing on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, will ask for the soldiers to give evidence from behind screens so that they will not be seen by anybody in the court including the coroner, Mr Felix Pizzarello. He will also ask for special devices to be fitted to microphones so that their voices will be distorted.

But his demands will be opposed by Mr Patrick McCrory, the Belfast barrister appearing on behalf of the families of the three terrorists, Mairead Farrell, Danny McCann, and Sean Savage. He will argue that the screens will make the cross-examination of witnesses meaningless.

The legal argument will have to be resolved by the coroner and lawyers in Gibraltar expect him to accede to the Government's request.

Monday's hearing was requested by the Government to resolve other sensitive issues also. It wants to limit intelligence material provided to the court on the the surveillance operation in Britain, Spain and Gibraltar which pinpointed the IRA's plan.

Wontner, and orchestrated by the much larger touring company, Trusthouse Forte, which owns 47 per cent of the Savoy and which wished Sir Hugh's deeds undone.

Readers of the plot assumed at once that the whole performance was an attempt by THF to gain control, but the old guard Savoyards knew well enough what the final act should be.

The Hon Rocco Forte, cast inevitably as the villain, stated his case from the wings. "We are here to consider the fraudulent issue of voting shares," said Mr Forte.

Mr Beverley Griffin rose from the chorus. "If this were to go through, THF could acquire this company very cheaply," said Mr Griffin, hitting the nail on what most of the room

Gracing the centre court



The Duchess of York with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, on the Centre Court yesterday, where Sweden's Stefan Edberg won a place in his first Wimbledon final, beating the Czech Miloslav Mecir in a thrilling five-set match. Wimbledon, pages 39, 40.

Cleveland crisis blamed on a lack of liaison

By Jill Sherman and Peter Davenport

Lack of liaison between social workers, doctors and the police was the underlying problem behind the child sexual abuse crisis in Cleveland, the inquiry report is expected to conclude.

The Butler Sloss report, to be published next Wednesday, is understood not to single out any professionals to take the blame for the breakdown in the child care system which led to dozens of children being taken away from their families, often with little warning or explanation.

However, last night an MP said that if leaked criticisms from the report were accurate, the leading figures involved in the cases, which caused untold suffering and distress, should resign or be dismissed.

Mr Stuart Bell, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough, who championed the cause of the families caught up in the controversy, said that the resignations or dismissals

paediatricians who diagnosed sexual abuse in 121 children; Mrs Sue Richardson, Cleveland's child abuse consultant; Mr John Hughes, senior social worker; Mr Michael Bishop, the director of social services, and Mr Bill Walton, his deputy.

He said they should all now consider their positions and if they were unable to reach a decision it should be taken for them by their employers.

If the allegations in the leaks were accurate, that no child protection agency escapes blame in the report by Lord Justice Butler Sloss and that "terrible damage" was done to some families, then they should resign or be dismissed, Mr Bell said.

The MP named the key figures as Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, the

were needed to restore public confidence in both health and social services.

He was backed by local parents who had been accused of abusing their children.

"At the moment parents in Cleveland with children fear the knock on the door. That is wrong. They have no confidence in social services," Mr Bell said.

The MP named the key figures as Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, the

Air congestion over Europe leaves flight plans in chaos

By Harvey Elliott and Mark Ellis

Air travellers face chaos this weekend after the virtual collapse yesterday of air traffic control procedures throughout Europe on what was the busiest day of the year.

Telephone lines between air traffic controllers in every big European centre were jammed with the sheer volume of calls requesting flight "slots".

In Britain alone dozens of flights were held on the ground as operational staff tried to plot a flight through the congested skies.

Mr Keith Mack, controller of National Air Traffic Services, said late yesterday afternoon: "There is simply too much traffic and it is busier than it has ever been. Flights are still getting through but the whole of Europe is clogged."

"We have had to appeal to airlines not to use the telephones but to use an emergency telex machine we have moved in to the London Air Traffic Control Centre."

Most airlines faced immediate delays of around three hours and said that the problem would get worse during the weekend as delays mounted and aircraft found themselves in the wrong place.

The problem began yesterday morning as the school year ended in France and millions of families headed for the airports and a record number of flights, but a strike by French airport firemen and an unofficial work to rule by members of the biggest transport union added to the congestion.

The whole of Europe was covered in violent thunder storms and heavy rain which itself delayed some departures and forced pilots to seek routes around the worst weather.

As the day wore on more

and more countries imposed "flow control", a procedure in which aircraft are held on the ground until they can be guaranteed a safe passage, often over several countries.

For the system to work a controller must ring the flow control centre in a neighbouring country which in turn rings the one beyond and so on until all those involved have agreed to take the particular flight. Usually only one or two countries at the most are using flow control at any one time.

However, by yesterday afternoon every country was imposing its own limits on the

Air Europe boost

number of flights and each was trying to ring the other at the same time.

Last June a record number of 300 flow control calls were received in one day. Last week it had jumped to 700 in 24 hours and yesterday, although the final tally has not been taken, it was expected to be well over 1,000.

"The airlines were trying to telephone to organize a slot and the flow management units were either ringing them back or ringing the next country down the route", Mr Mack said. "The telephone system just could not cope."

Passengers who had boarded their aircraft were then told by the pilot that they would have to wait, often for several hours, while a slot was found.

One American passenger described how he had boarded a British Airways flight bound for Geneva at Heathrow at 3.45pm, but the captain had said that, in spite of negotiations with air traffic controllers, the aircraft would

Two Britons in world's top five chess players

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

British chess grandmasters for the first time have seized two of the top five spots in the latest World Chess Federation rankings published yesterday.

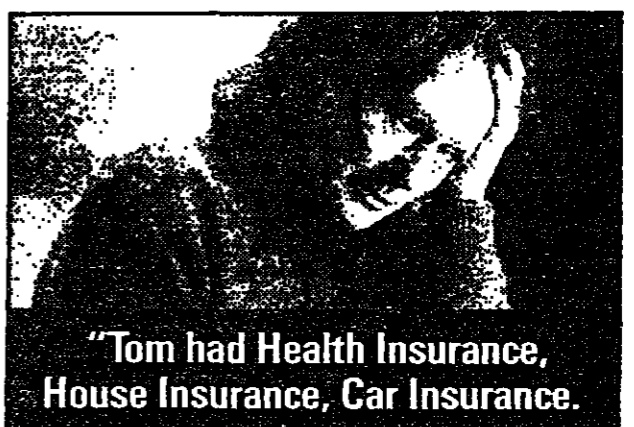
Nigel Short from Hampstead in London, has taken the No 3 slot, a British record, behind only the Russians, Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov. Jon Speelman, also from Hampstead, is in the No 5 position. Speelman's result would have been an all-time British best were it not for the fresh achievement of Nigel Short. Further British successes were the shared tenth

position for John Nunn and nineteenth for Murray Chandler a personal lifetime best in each case.

England, with four grandmasters in the world top 20, is universally recognized as a chess superpower second only to the Soviet Union.

In comparison the United States has only one grandmaster in the top 20. That is Yasser Seirawan, from Seattle who shares 18th place in yesterday's rankings.

The World Chess Federation



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Kinnock rating at post-election low

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock's popularity has fallen to its lowest point since the general election, according to the latest opinion poll figures.

A tally taken from replies to the main polling organizations shows that 28 per cent of voters are satisfied with Mr Kinnock, compared with 38 per cent in July last year and 34 per cent last month.

The figures underline the effect on the Labour leader's standing of the recent in-fighting over defence policy and the leadership election.

Meanwhile Mr Kinnock's key supporters in the Shadow Cabinet kept up their barrage of criticism of the hard left challengers to the party hierarchy.

Mr Jack Straw, the chief Opposition education spokesman, likened opponents such as Mr Tony Benn and Mr Eric Heffer to "born-again Christians" trapped in a time warp.

Mr Straw told Labour Party members in Slough, Berkshire, that Karl Marx, their guru, would have supported the policy review because he recognized the need for changing ideas for changing times.

"It's a great pity that Marx's alleged disciples cannot see that."

Almost half - 47 per cent - of 4,359 voters questioned are satisfied with Mrs Thatcher's leadership of the Conservatives. The party increased its lead over Labour from 5 to 12 per cent.

The Conservatives received exactly the same percentage of support as Mrs Thatcher - 47 per cent - while Labour got 35 per cent, the Social and Liberal Democrats 10 per cent, the SDP 4 per cent and others 4 per cent.

The figures come from the BBC's Poll of Polls based on surveys by Gallup, MORI, NOP, Marplan, Harris and Audience Selection.

Chorus strikes the right note at Savoy Hotel

By Alan Hamilton

Any of the 350 Savoyards crowded into the Abraham Lincoln Room of their favourite hotel yesterday who thought they were about to watch a production of Trial By Jury were swiftly disabused of the notion by Sir Anthony Tuke, the hotel's chairman.

"This is not," he said, "a court of law; it is a shareholders' meeting."

Nevertheless the libretto had a Gilbertian sparkle, with the honours going to the chorus, which seemed as respectable and middle-aged as the hotel of which each owned a tiny part.

The one-off performance was an extraordinary general meeting of the Savoy Hotel company called to discuss share arrangements made by their former chairman, Sir Hugh

regarded as the head. "Wherever I go, our company is held universally in the greatest esteem. Do we want to throw all that away?"

He was followed by Mr Peter Eve, defending Sir Hugh who, Mr Forte had hoped, would assume the mantle of villain. "If Sir Hugh committed irregularities, then I am sure he committed them for the benefit of the Savoy," said Mr Eve loyally. When the applause had died down, Mr Forte and his advisers were asked if they wished to reply; at that point, they did not.

There was no turning the tide now. The very mention of Sir Hugh brought clapping and after a brief and eloquent justification of his actions, further applause indicated that the

chairs were more than ready to believe him. They particularly liked his assertion that the whole plot was the latest manoeuvre by the Fortes to creep into the Savoy by the back door.

Forte fls protested that his father had always used the front door and would continue to do so, but it was too late for arguments about stage directions.

When the hands went up to back the Savoy board against the THF court action, the chorus was unanimous but for a dozen or so sharing the wings with Mr Forte. The planned happy ending had been achieved.

Sir Anthony invited the cast to champagne. Mr Forte declined politely; he was in the wrong opera. Details, photographs, page 25

WIN £106,000

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

The £4,000 daily prize was shared by three people yesterday (see page 3) so the Portfolio Accumulator fund stands at £106,000. There is an additional £9,999 to be won in the weekly competition today. Portfolio tables, pages 29, 34

IN PART 2

Cuban talks

A Cuban shipping company may join the consortium studying a takeover of the troubled North East Shipbuilders, the Wearside yard facing privatization... Page 25

TVS doubts

There are doubts in the City on how Television South will fund the \$325 million (£191 million) acquisition of MTM, the US television company... Page 25

Bond merger

Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, will lose direct control of his international empire in a merger with his rival, Mr Robert Holmes & Court... Page 25

The £2m man

Everton will pursue Tony Cottee after West Ham decided to accept more than £2 million for him... Page 39

Mortgage vet

A leading building society's plans to start vetting mortgage applicants with the same credit-scoring methods used for other loans is examined by Family Money... Pages 30-34

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Care orders remain on 25 children from sexual abuse crisis

By Peter Davenport

Cleveland social services says 25 children diagnosed as sexual abuse victims at the height of the crisis are still in care and away from their families more than a year later. They are among the 83 cases in which place of safety orders were taken out during May and June last year, two critical months in which a total of 191 children were referred to social services on suspicion of being abused. Figures for the two consultants at the centre of the crisis, Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, were not disclosed yesterday, although it is known that in the first six months of last year they diagnosed 121 children as being sexually abused, with most of their findings in May and June. Cleveland County Council said that of the 83 place of safety orders taken out to

remove children from their homes, 25 of them still remained away from their families. Seven were under interim care orders, 11 in full care, one in voluntary care and six under the local authority. The inquiry by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, which ended last January, was given conflicting accounts of the number of children involved and what had subsequently happened to them. She instructed the council to prepare detailed figures. The statistics disclosed yesterday covered the period from January 1987 to May this year. Out of 1,454 children referred to social services for all forms of abuse, 545 were for sexual abuse. In the first seven months of last year, before the sexual abuse inquiry was set up by the Government, 361 cases were referred to social ser-

VICES. The height of the crisis was in May and June when 191 cases were referred, 38 per cent of them via hospital. A total of 118 place of safety orders were issued between January 1987 and May this year. In a breakdown of all the cases the council said that eight children remained under interim care orders, 18 on full care orders, one in voluntary care and 11 are in local authority care. The other 80 have been allowed to return home, although some remain under legal authority or have voluntary contact with social services. The number of sexual abuse cases in the first three months of this year was on a level with the first three months of last year. The figures for 1987 were: January 25, February 33, March 30. The figures for this year were 23, 27, and 30.

A final case for mercy



Judge Argyle leaving court for the last time yesterday (Photograph: James Gray).

By Alan Hamilton
Judge Argyle, one of the most colourful and unpredictable members of the judiciary to grace the Central Criminal Court, showed a generous degree of mercy in his last case yesterday. He allowed a man who had pleaded guilty to possessing firearms with intent to endanger life to walk free, having first lightened his pocket with a £750 fine. After 16 years of presiding over Court 15, which he almost made his own, the only

judge of the Central Criminal Court known to keep whippets has retired at the age of 72. He is most celebrated for imposing prison sentences, subsequently quashed, on the three editors of the magazine *Oz*, in 1971, and almost equally remembered, at least by the court staff, for his daily paragonage of the bookmaker's shop outside the court. A former Army major decorated with the Military Cross who twice stood as a Conservative parliamentary candidate, Judge Argyle has

swung between the extremes of leniency and toughness since becoming a circuit judge in 1970. He particularly abhorred sports hooliganism, jailing a soccer thug for life in 1985 for a glass attack on a publican. But he incurred the wrath of women when three years ago he handed out a suspended sentence to a barman convicted of attempted rape, saying: "You come from Derby. That is my part of the world; off you go and don't come back".

Licence boost for Air Europe

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Air Europe was given permission yesterday to launch scheduled services to Stockholm and Oslo from Gatwick and now appears likely to take over from British Caledonian as Britain's second most powerful airline. The Civil Aviation Authority announced yesterday that it will award the licences, formerly held by British Caledonian and handed back by British Airways under its agreement with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, to Mr Harry Goodman's burgeoning airline. Mr Goodman, who in just two years has acquired scheduled licences to fly to 15 European destinations, said last night: "By the middle of next year we will be bigger than B-Cal was in Europe." Air Europe was set up in 1979 with three Boeing 737s to concentrate on charter flights for Mr Goodman's rapidly expanding Intasun travel company. Two years ago, he began scheduled services to Gibraltar and made an unsuccessful bid to buy B-Cal. Now he has a fleet of 14 modern jets which will be expanded to 21 by next spring and a Spanish based charter airline Air Europa.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Baby son to benefit

One of the three winners of yesterday's portfolio prize of £4,000 explained how parenthood prevented him from spending his share as he would wish. Mr John Cabot, aged 40, a partner in a London firm of solicitors, said: "If I wasn't a married man with commitments I would place all the money on a horse this coming weekend!" Instead, he has decided to put most of the money aside for his newly born son, Thomas. Mr Michael Graves, from Ascot in Berkshire, received news of his winnings on his sixtieth birthday. Mr Graves is retired, but used to work for British Steel as its systems development manager. He intends to spend his win on the wedding of his daughter Georgia. Mr Stephen Roberts, aged 47, from Churchill Crescent, Woodbridge, Suffolk, who is a branch manager of Boots the chemists hopes to invest his share of the money.

Police secrets of rape watch are protected

By Mark Ellis

A detective declined yesterday to give details of a police surveillance operation used to trail the alleged Putney Rapist to avoid putting at risk investigations into kidnappings and armed robberies. Det Inspector Peter Johnson was describing his surveillance unit's tracking of a chief, aged 24, who denies seven charges of rape, attempted rape, and indecent assault. Inspector Johnson told the Central Criminal Court his unit used "a number of vehicles" and worked independently of the police. The accused, married to Metropolitan police officer, was kept under surveillance for 26 days. Inspector Johnson asked not to answer questions about the police vehicles in open court as the information "might be of use to others". One weekend in May last year, when the police had ended their surveillance, the accused is alleged to have raped a woman aged 22. The case continues.

Soccer thug leaders are jailed total of 16 years

By Ian Smith

Enormous damage had been caused to Britain and its reputation abroad by the countless acts of mindless violence by soccer hooligans, a judge said yesterday as he jailed the four ringleaders of such a gang, including a former paratrooper who served with distinction in the Falklands conflict, for a total of 16 years. Judge Crabtree predicted that the severity of their punishments would be interpreted internationally as a measure of this country's determination to curb terrace violence. Defendants and their families would feel they were being unfairly held responsible for the actions of others, Leeds Crown Court was told, but the sad truth was that the judge had to look at the wider implications of how their sentences would be viewed both in this country and abroad as an effective measure of stamping out hooliganism.

Before the court for sentence were five Leeds United supporters arrested after a six-month police operation called "Wild Boar". Four officers had mingled with suspects at both home and away games, wearing the same clothes and drinking in the same public houses. National attention was drawn to the trial which lasted six weeks when at its conclusion the jury, who were sent to an hotel overnight to consider their verdicts, confided in a court usher that they felt intimidated by friends and relatives of the defendants. At that stage Judge Crabtree refused defence counsel applications to halt the trial and instead ordered frightened jurors to "have the guts" to deliver true verdicts. The jury of eight men and four women returned a verdict of guilty on five men accused of conspiring to fight and make an affray.

David Brown, a former member of the 2nd Parachute Regiment known as "The General", aged 27, of Lidgett, Gledhow, Leeds; Paul Milner, aged 24, of Queens Street, Morley; and Patrick Slaughter, aged 21, of Harrogate Road, Chapelton, Leeds, were each sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Martin Pickard, aged 23, a co-conspirator of Denby Drive, Shipley, near Leeds, received 2½ years' imprisonment and Nigel Stephenson, aged 17, of The Mount, Thornes, Wakefield, received 15 months' youth custody. Michael Craddock, aged 21, of Sty Lane, Rothwell, Leeds, was sentenced to 150 hours' community service; Frank Milner, aged 20, was given nine months' youth custody, and Andrew Harris, aged 22, was imprisoned four nine months after pleading guilty to involvement in a second charge of conspiracy to fight and make an affray.

Hero who found comfort in violence

By Ian Smith

The self-styled general leading a gang of vicious soccer hooligans was a hero of the Falklands conflict who risked enemy fire to rescue a wounded comrade. In the Falklands, 2nd Parachute Regiment medical orderly David Brown covered with other soldiers for nine hours under an intense Argentine barrage at Goose Green. After spotting two men lying mortally wounded in exposed no man's land, Brown crawled on his stomach avoiding enemy snipers to reach them. One soldier was dying, his arms and legs blown

off, the other was screaming in agony with part of his leg severed by a mortar shell. Unknown to Brown or senior officers of his regiment, he was already suffering the first symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder caused by the appalling mayhem he had already experienced. It was when Brown resigned from the 2nd Parachute Regiment and lost the *esprit de corps* that he suffered a grieving reaction over the sudden loss of close friends. It was in an attempt to find emotional comfort that he became a member and eventual leader

of the gang of soccer thugs. Tragically, by then, violence had become an accepted, almost necessary, part of life. The story of Brown's past was disclosed to Leeds Crown Court by Mr David Barker QC, for the defence, who spoke of a boy raised in an eminently respectable family. Mr Stephen Hughes, a consultant registrar at Hammersmith Hospital, said Brown's post-traumatic stress disorder was one doctors now believe he shared with at least 20 per cent of all servicemen who had served in the Falklands.

Over-18 cards for drinkers

By Robin Young

Britain's first identity card scheme for young drinkers started yesterday in Chard, Somerset. Young people who wish to buy alcohol at any of the town's public houses, clubs, off-licences or supermarkets must, if challenged, produce an identity card proving they are over 18. Ministers are considering a similar scheme nationally, and the National Association of Licensed Victuallers is to look at the scheme in practice at Chard. There is widespread support in the licensed trade for the idea because licensees found guilty of serving under-age customers face fines of up to £400 may lose their licences after three offences. Bass, the brewers, which has a depot in Chard, has paid for 1,000 cards to launch the scheme and has been asked to sponsor two more schemes in Wiltshire towns. The Chard cards originated in a chance remark at one of the town's regular meetings by Mr John Kennedy, manager of the George Hotel. "I had seen it in operation in America," he said yesterday. "When I mentioned it everyone seemed to think it was a very good idea." By opening time yesterday, 36 youngsters had collected identity cards from the local police station. Chard's publicans already operate a blacklist, banning anyone who uses violence or damages property on licensed premises.

Rebel Latin Mass in London

By Patrick O'Hanlon

Defiant members of Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre's society of St Paix X were last night celebrating the Latin mass in a north London church under threat of excommunication. Father Brendan King said at the society's centre in Wimbledon: "These are Catholics who refuse to be compromised." "What annoys us is that no measure has been taken against the progressives and liberals in the Church. The fall weight of the law has been taken against the archbishop who has only the good of the church at heart." Father King added that the society regarded the Pope as a "liberalist". Father Michael Crowley, custodian of the society's house at Highclere, Berkshire, and whose newest member, Father Paul Morgan, was this

week ordained by Archbishop Lefebvre, said they did not expect to be excommunicated. "The teachings of the church come before obedience to any authority in the church. I rather doubt whether the Pope will press the matter when you consider the other extremes who have not been excommunicated." "Bishops are encouraging or tolerating the most fantastic abuses in the church, and the Mass has been brought to the point of ridicule in the more extreme cases." The Society of St Paix X has five priests in this country who travel widely celebrating the mass in Latin. They have 2,500 followers. They chose St Paix X, the last canonized Pope, as their patron because of his denunciation of modernization. Two masses are celebrated every Sunday in London, attracting 450. This

congregation raised £100,000 in a matter of days to buy St Joseph's Church in Holloway, north London, in 1982. Mr Michael Alison, an Anglican church commissioner, last night accused the Rev. Richard Jones, the new president of the Methodist Conference, who criticized Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policies, of adopting the thoughts of Marxism. Mr Jones has described the Government's brand of capitalism as "streaked with cruelty", treating the poor with contempt and patronizing charity. A group of 250 Anglican clergymen yesterday declared its intention "to fight the ordination of women to the priesthood." For the first time, the dissenting clergy, who attended a conference at Oxford last week, have published their names. The unruly flock, page 10.

How the pipes can damage the drums

By Kerry Gill

Anyone who rolls out of a rock concert deafened by the cacophony would consider the bagpipers' skin little more than a distant lament from the glens. Two American researchers, however, have found that such stirring tunes as "Massacre of Glencoe" and "Too Long In This Condition" could seriously damage your health when rendered by damage your health when rendered by the pipes. They say that bagpipers, which have led Scots regiments into battle over the ages, can potentially cause permanent ear damage and acoustic trauma. Dr Stephen Brittain, a neurologist, and Dr Robert Hartenstein, an audiologist, measured the noise produced when Dr Brittain, a piper in his spare time, played "The Lament" for Sir James MacDonald "of the Isles" in a Vermont field. The row in the piper's ear, they found, could reach 115 decibels, which is louder than a

chainsaw and just a little below that of a jet aircraft taking off. Dr Brittain has suggested that players should plug foam rubber in their ears if playing for 15 minutes or more to avoid damage. The researchers' findings have been published in a letter to the *Head and Neck Surgery* magazine of the American Medical Association's Archives of Otolaryngology. The news has caused some consternation in Scotland where the piping season is in full swing. Mr Iain MacFadyen, who won the prestigious Donald MacDonald Quich at Sleat on the Isle of Skye last Friday, said yesterday: "There may be some truth in the thing. These are medical men and should be listened to." Mr MacFadyen, who won with his interpretation of "The White Flag", added: "If I were starting again I think I would wear earplugs for practising". Some players, however, said that using

ear plugs would be tantamount to playing with underpants under their kilt. Mr Graham Maclean, former Boys' Brigade pipe major and pipe sergeant in one of Scotland's top bands, said: "I have been playing everything from piobair each to jigs for the last 38 years and I can still hear the gurgle of the first drum being poured from a bottle". Few people could have had more experience than Mr Angus Macdonald. Now aged 66, he was pipe major to the old Glasgow Police Band and piper to the general officers commanding the 51st Highland Division during part of the North African and Sicily campaigns. He said: "I know at least two first-class piper majors who have had ear operations". The real trouble came when young people were asked to play pipes with reeds that were too strong for them. However, he still treated comparisons with chainsaws with a certain disdain.

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Example: A single man aged 29 buying a house for £50,000 and applying to us for an endowment mortgage of £40,000 to be secured over 25 years on the property and on an endowment policy. Monthly endowment premium £49.40, net monthly mortgage payment £242.40. Our APR is variable. Interest rates correct at time of going to press. We require a first mortgage over the property.

Deductions for charges and expenses which will be made in the early years of the period of an endowment policy may represent a higher proportion of the value of such policy than the deductions which are made in later years. Sale of an endowment policy during its early years may realise less than the aggregate amount paid as premiums for such policy.

This advertisement is issued by The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., which has applied to join The Securities Association and is interim authorised.

Independent unions to meet on plan for TUC rival body

By Roland Rudd

Members of the electricians' union are meeting non-affiliated trade unions on Monday to discuss forming an alternative TUC.

The seminar had been called to discuss the issue of performance-related pay, although the imminent suspension of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union has overtaken events.

A statement released yesterday by Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Managerial and Professional Staff, made clear that the interest behind the meeting lies in creating an alternative to the TUC.

He will tell the gathering of unions that the meeting marks "a turning point in the trade union movement. The days when the TUC spoke for the trade unions of this country are over."

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the electricians' union, has made clear he has no plans to set up an alternative TUC.

However, Mr Roy Sanderson, leader of the electricians' white-collar section, who will attend the meeting, yesterday said the union was interested in meeting like-minded trade unions to discuss issues of common interest, although this did not necessarily mean setting up an alternative TUC.

The meeting is bound to be seen by the TUC as a direct challenge to its organization. Among unions attending on Monday are the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, the Institute of Journalists, the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, the Association of Professional Ambulance Personnel and the Association of Managerial and Professional Staff.

Mr Dawson said: "There are those who say that unity is strength. But there is another side to the coin. Unity is weakness when it means the suppression of minorities and the death of common sense."

His association believes it is sensible for unions outside the TUC, which will include the electricians when it is suspended next Friday, to pursue a common policy. He emphasized that an alternative to the TUC would not victimize different unions within its organization for holding different views.

He will tell the meeting at the British Medical Association House in Tavistock Square, central London: "I

prefer to consider his position after the review, expected in December.

He has been offered a transfer to Bradford University but Hull, he says, will not let him go unless the vital student funding allowance he would carry with him is left at Hull.

The premature retirement package offered to Mr Page included an enhanced indexed pension and a tax-free lump sum equal to three years' pension.

Mr Page said he would speak to you as someone who has been called a boogman and slime for daring to contradict the leaders of the largest TUC-affiliated teachers' union.

"Let me tell you something about slime. It sticks, and my union will stick to saying what it believes."

There were a number of unions outside the TUC that believed it was time to forge a different path from the main movement.

It is believed the electricians are wary of declaring support while still within the TUC.

All aboard the school ride for charity



Pupils of Aldenham School in Elstree, Hertfordshire, starting their annual charity ride on a 76-year-old "quad cycle" in front of their school yesterday for the 15-mile run to the Eros statue in Piccadilly Circus. Its sculptor, Alfred Gilbert, an Aldenham old boy, created the statue in 1892. The runner is Toby Boon and the riders (from left) are Toby Munyard, David Edison, Kenneth Aina and Stuart Hutchison (Photograph: Marc Aspland).

Random testing denied

Police check 400 drivers at Henley

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Thames Valley police, who a fortnight ago stopped more than 2,000 vehicles and breathalysed more than 350 drivers during Ascot race week, have continued their action at Henley Royal Regatta this week.

About 400 vehicles were checked, and 60 people breathalysed in the regatta's first two days.

But in London the Metropolitan Police said they were not increasing breathtests on people leaving Wimbledon, nor are Greater Manchester police doing so near the Old Trafford Test match.

Chief Inspector Frederick Ashmore, of Thames Valley

police said that on five days of Ascot week they had stopped a total of 2,234 vehicles, administered 356 breath tests, and arrested 24 drivers.

In the first two days of Henley they had stopped 408 vehicles, given administered 61 tests and arrested two people.

He denied police action amounted to random breath testing. The police were allowed to stop vehicles, and could administer the breath test if they had grounds for thinking the driver had been drinking.

Although only a small proportion of those tested had been over the legal limit,

practically all had had something to drink.

He pointed out that the police had been operating at only one of about half a dozen exits, and for only about two hours each evening.

An AA spokesman said that possibly the greatest value of the police's action was in educating people to understand that the drink driving laws would be enforced even at these big social and sporting events.

Mr Malcolm Hurwit, a member of the executive of the National Council for Civil Liberties, said it did not object to the action provided police had reasonable grounds to

suspect a driver had been drinking. But if it were a disguised way of carrying out random breath tests it would be an abuse of police discretion.

Since the 1970s the NOCL had been opposed to random breath testing, but was now reviewing its policy.

The Lord Chamberlain's office is protesting to organizers of the Henley Royal Regatta about the treatment of swans, who are confined in small pens for their own safety during the regatta. Residents say they are hungry and at the mercy of foxes.

Pupil wins gold medal for physics

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A British student yesterday beat pupils from 27 nations to take the gold medal in the International Physics Olympiad at Bad Ischl in Austria. Conrad McDonnell, aged 17, who has just left Eton College, scored 80 per cent for theory and 87 per cent for practical experiments.

His British team mates also carried off medals. Rashmi Tank, of Harrow Weald Sixth Form College, won a silver, and Neil Greenham, of Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree, Hertfordshire, a bronze.

Frigate ready

The 4,100 ton anti-submarine frigate Coventry, the last Falklands replacement ship, was handed over to the Royal Navy by Swan Hunter shipbuilders yesterday.

Mother-killer

A man who strangled his dominating invalid mother was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for manslaughter. Adrian Taylor, aged 39, told detectives: "I felt that I was overcome by some sort of evil force."

Flying pickets

A family of three young kestrels has stopped all work at part of the British Coal opencast mine at Foxhouses, near Broughton Moor, Cumbria, for three weeks while the fledglings are learning to fly.

Mute hold-up

An armed deaf mute tried unsuccessfully to hold up a bank and building society by grunting at cashiers, Exeter Crown Court was told yesterday. Andrew Beer, aged 21, of Moor View, Salthouse, Cornwall, was given a two-year prison sentence suspended for two years.

Don fights early retirement

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

A university lecturer who has become the first tenured academic to be made redundant yesterday defended his decision to reject a lavish early retirement scheme.

Mr Edgar Page's dispute with Hull University centres on the terms of academic tenure, which under the Education Reform Bill is due to be weakened so that universities can make academics redundant for financial reasons.

Mr Page, aged 57, a philosophy lecturer, said: "I am at an important stage in my career, developing work in health care ethics and particularly ethics of reproduction, and planned to work for another 10 years."

The university, which gave Mr Page notice on Thursday, has pressed him to apply for early retirement pending the outcome of a University Grants Committee review of philosophy provision in all universities.

Mr Page said he would

prefer to consider his position after the review, expected in December.

He has been offered a transfer to Bradford University but Hull, he says, will not let him go unless the vital student funding allowance he would carry with him is left at Hull.

The premature retirement package offered to Mr Page included an enhanced indexed pension and a tax-free lump sum equal to three years' pension.

College may put its collection for sale

The art market may soon have another important collection to sink its teeth into. It belongs to the Royal Holloway College, which is part of London University.

The college has just had paintings by Gainsborough, Constable, Turner and Millais valued by Thomas Agnew & Sons, the London dealers, with a view to selling.

"The college is faced with very serious financial problems, and it is prudent for us to explore all our assets",

Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, the principal, said yesterday.

The collection, comprising 80 pictures, includes "The Railway Station" by William Powell Frith, a famous Victorian scene; "The Prince in the Tower" by Sir John Everett Millais; Gainsborough's "Peasant going to Market"; Turner's "Van Tromp" and Landseer's "Man Proposes, God Disposes".

Judging from the recent flow of records for such artists,

(£780,000 for Millais in 1983; £1 million for Gainsborough in April 1987; £6.7 million for Turner) the collection must be worth millions.

Phillips, after its night of catastrophe on Wednesday, when 65 per cent of its Impressionist paintings failed to sell, headed back yesterday with its most successful print sale ever, totalling £572,693, with 12 per cent unsold.

Among six records for individual prints was £41,800

by Sarah Jane Checkland Art Market Correspondent

(estimate up to £25,000) for a rare, if academic, etching by Jacques Villon, entitled "Portrait de Marcel Duchamp".

"The White Line", a 1960 abstract lithograph, became a record for the American artist, Sam Francis, at £16,500 (double the upper estimate).

BBC to show Zircon film

By Andrew Billen

The controversial documentary about the Zircon spy satellite is to be screened by the BBC in September, 20 months after it was dropped because of Government protests.

The decision to show the programme follows assurances from the Lord Advocate in Scotland and the Treasury Solicitor in England that the programme is unaffected by injunctions obtained against Mr Duncan Campbell, its

maker. In January last year the BBC decided not to show the programme, part of a six part BBC 2 series by Mr Campbell, an investigative journalist attached to the *New Statesman*, after legal advice that it might breach national security.

Days later police raided the BBC in Glasgow and seized material relating to the series. In November the BBC was told there were no grounds for prosecution.

However, on the same day

the Lord Advocate and Treasury Solicitor obtained an interdict in Scotland and an injunction in England against Mr Campbell restraining him from disclosing information obtained from GCHQ officers in breach of their duty of confidence.

The film will be shown in full in September, as part of a programme discussing the constitutional and legal issues it raised.

Mr Campbell was in the United States yesterday.

JPs warned against cliques

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A warning to magistrates not to form cliques or factions was given by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday.

If individuals sat on the same day each week and in the same group, solicitors might ask to have a case heard before the Tuesday bench, known to be soft, rather than the "hard" Wednesday bench. He said

that cliques or factions sometimes developed because of the rota system so that people were known as "Monday justices" or "Thursday justices" and so on.

"A system of this kind will often assist in the management of a bench, but if it is used there must be arrangements for moving people between rotas from time to time,

otherwise there is a danger that particular groups within a bench may adopt their own distinct practices."

He told Hertfordshire branch of the Magistrates' Association that benches should have a system which produced competent chairmen. Opportunities should be given for up-and-coming magistrates to gain experience.

Crown Estate hails yield on property

By Christopher Warman Property Correspondent

The Crown Estate achieved a total return of more than 40 per cent on its property investment in the last financial year, it announced yesterday on publication of the commissioners' annual report.

The estate is now valued overall at almost £1.7 billion, up from £1.23 billion in 1987, making it one of the main property organisations in the country, Lord Mansfield, First Crown Estate Commissioner, told a press conference

that the figures and achievements effectively answered criticism of the estate in a report by the National Audit Office.

The report was "by and large a satisfactory document. It says we manage property well". Referring to the statement in the report that the absence of targets remained the main weakness in the estate's performance, Lord Mansfield said the commissioners accepted that much more needed to be done in establishing targets, and were working with the surveyors, Hillier & Parker, He

described the results for the year as "highly satisfactory".

Net income of the estate increased in 1987-88 from £29.6 million to £32.9 million, and it gave £35 million to the Exchequer, an increase of £5 million on the year.

"That is an increase of over 12 per cent in real terms. This achievement reflects the buoyant commercial property market in London, additional income from recent investments in Scotland and improved management of the Crown Estate portfolio", Lord Mansfield said.

July 1 1988

PARLIAMENT

Privatized sport plan angers Labour

The Government's plans to give private companies a role in the management of local authority sporting and leisure facilities angered Labour MPs when they were outlined in a Commons statement.

Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, said that the Government wanted "better value for money. He rejected suggestions that facilities would only be available for the better off because local authorities would be able to continue to pay subsidies.

He said that competitive tendering should yield greater value for money from local authority expenditure on sport and recreation through more effective management and marketing of facilities and a greater sensitivity to the needs of the community.

The Government proposed to exempt facilities at schools and further education establishments, including dual use and joint use facilities, and community centres in Scotland.

The proposals would not limit or restrict local authorities' existing discretionary powers over pricing, admission and opening hours policies.

Facilities to which compulsory competition would apply would include sports centres, leisure centres, swimming pools, leisure pools, golf courses, bowling greens, putting greens, tennis courts, athletic tracks, pitches for team games and other games, cycle tracks, water sports and leisure facilities, ski slopes, skating rinks and indoor bowling facilities.

Management functions would include supervising activities — for example, lifeguards at swimming pools — providing instruc-

tion, catering, provision and hire of sports equipment, employment and relevant training of staff.

All counties, non-metropolitan districts, parish councils, local authority joint committees and Scottish local authorities would have to introduce competition by January 1, 1992. Half the London boroughs and half the metropolitan districts would have to do so by August 1, 1992 and the remainder by January 1, 1993.

Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on sport, said that there was a confusion of thinking in the statement. He welcomed the exclusion of school facilities and the retention by local authorities of the power to set pricing and public interest policy.

But he went on: "The evolving contours of this Government on this matter are a recognition of the sustained hostility of the whole of sport and local government."

Where it had been tried, the effect on the users had been disastrous. Local authorities which had privatized facilities ahead of the Government's intention had made no real savings.

They could not do so because they were left to pay the loan charges, maintenance and insurance charges, and to provide cost of equipment and plant. "That is the special cost on the local authority and the ratepayer. It is theft. It is piracy."

No wonder that up and down the country, local authorities which had tried it had fallen flat on their faces. In Wandsworth, where swimming facilities had been privatized, the charges had

gone up from 50p to £5 for an adult and £3 for a child.

No wonder the company operating it had gone bankrupt. The council had had to take it back. The charges were now £1.50, three times what they were before this lunatic exercise.

This was a distraction to local authorities from the performance of their duties, a disincentive to the voluntary work of governing bodies in sport. The whole thing was a disgrace and if the minister had any self-respect, he would resign at once.

Mr Moynihan said that Mr Howell had continually resorted to misleading and inaccurate gloom and despondency.

Mr David Wiltshire (Spelthorne, C) told him to ignore the bogus howls from the Opposition. Councils would be forced to hand over services if they could not get their house in order and do it themselves. Competition would lead to new investment, better facilities, better safety and better value for money.

Mr Frank Doran (Aberdeen South, Lab) said that the St Andrews golf course had been successfully run by the local authority for centuries. The statement raised the prospect of St Andrews being put out to private tender with souvenir shops and a hamburger stall on the 18th fairway.

What steps would the minister take to protect this unique facility? Would he consider the effect on St Andrews if the Royal and Ancient decided that the privatized golf course was not very suitable for the Open?

Mr Moynihan said that the management of sports facilities, not the facilities themselves, would be put out to competitive tender.

This was all about value for money and the effective management of facilities. It would be up to local authorities to write health and safety guidelines into specifications.

The best way of making a profit was by getting more people to use facilities and by increasing efficiency. In that way, the main objective of sport for all could be achieved. (Labour laughter)

Mr Tom Pendry (Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab) asked whether football clubs and cricket grounds owned by local authorities would be subject to these conditions.

Mr Moynihan said that the only people subject to this form of competitive tendering would be those who had more sport for all there would be more and more sport for all who could pay and less and less for the rest.

Mr Moynihan said that that was nonsense. The Government had taken on board many points from the consultation exercise, including timing and the desire of local authorities to set subsidy levels.

Mr Diane Abbott (Hackney South and Stoke Newington, Lab) said that it was not just a

Tough law to stop job discrimination

The Government intends to introduce tough legislation to combat employment discrimination in the province, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, made clear in a Commons debate.

He said that there had been considerable success in tackling discrimination in housing and electoral practices, but on fair employment, the Government was not satisfied with progress.

"Although steps were taken, although much good work has been done, there has not been a major change statistically in the apparent disadvantage between the likelihood of unemployment among Catholics as opposed to the Protestant communities."

Legislation based on the White Paper *Fair Employment in Northern Ireland* would be much tougher than anything

there had been, but it would only be tough on those determined to flout it.

The Government had set itself against quotas and reverse discrimination, which could have a catastrophic effect on the acceptance by the wider community of the proposals.

Mr Kevin McNamara, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that inequality of opportunity in employment was one of the major problems which sparked the "Troubles" in 1969. The problem was largely unchanged.

Mr Harold McCusker (Upper Bann, OUP) said that if he were an employer, he could not employ a supporter of Sinn Féin. "That supporter probably seeks my death and might be quite happy to collude in setting me up for murder."

Next week at Westminster

NHS anniversary debate

Labour MPs will mark the fortieth anniversary of the NHS next Tuesday with a Commons debate attacking the Government's stewardship of health services (Sheila Gunn writes).

Mr Robin Cook, the Shadow Social Services Secretary, is planning to make the Opposition debate a celebration of the achievements of the NHS. But he is also expected to question Mr John Moore, the Social Services Secretary, on the reforms being considered by the Government's review of the NHS, particularly the radical

ideas being put forward by the right-wing think tanks.

On Wednesday MPs are due to hear the conclusions of the 700-page report following the judicial inquiry into the child abuse crisis in Cleveland.

On the same day the Scottish Nationalists will have their chance to underline the Conservatives' lack of support north of the border in their debate on the political situation.

South-east short of airspace

It is shortage of airspace, not of runways, which constrains the amount of air traffic in the South-east, Lord Brabazon of Tara, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Lords.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said that pressure on air space was accentuated by shortage of runways, which led to a considerable amount of aircraft stacking.

Pressed again by Lord Boyd-Carpenter, Lord Brabazon said: "The shortage is one of airspace and not of runways at present. It seems that if we built another runway there is not the airspace to deal with it."

In reply to further questions, he said that the number of air misses has fallen sharply over the past few years.

through the upper House. Amendments made in the Lords will then go to the Commons where Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, is expected to ask MPs to reverse at least one of the four deferrals inflicted on his Bill by peers.

The Lords will also complete the report stage of the Local Government Finance Bill, including consideration of the Government's latest amendment to remove the proposals to phase in the community charge in high-spending areas of inner London.

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Gorbachov finds perestroika a tough task to clarify

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Just over half way through the special Communist Party conference in Moscow, delegates on Thursday heard a second, un-scheduled speech by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov which suggested he might be finding it harder than he had anticipated to implement his proposals for political reform.

Tass had difficulty interpreting the speech and ran a correction of the first version of its report. Only when the text was printed in *Izvestia* yesterday did the burden of his remarks become clear.

According to the official report, Mr Gorbachov had been requested (by the commission on political reform which he was chairing) to explain some of the finer points of the proposals contained in his original report.

In particular, delegates wanted more details of the suggestion that party first secretaries should also be elected chairmen of the local soviets or government. What they

got was less clarification than justification — a passionate plea that *perestroika* had to be taken further if the Soviet Union's socialist system was to survive.

Throughout, as though answering complaints that he had acted precipitately, he was at pains to emphasize that the proposals had been formulated in consultation with many people, not just the Politburo, and that they had a collective character.

He spoke of the "panic" his proposals had caused in some circles, and the complaints he had received from others that reform was proceeding too slowly. He listed earlier attempts at economic reform and said this experience had convinced him that there was no future for economic reform without accompanying reform of the political system.

He also reiterated the call he had made in his initial speech for party officials to concentrate on ideological and strategic matters and leave economic management

to the managers. The Soviet Communist Party, he said, had come in for much criticism, both at home and abroad, but it was strong enough to withstand it.

His second, much shorter, address has prompted questions about how far Mr Gorbachov has stage-managed the conference and how far it has been a genuinely spontaneous occasion. Soviet commentators see Thursday as the turning point. It was then, they say, when they heard the speech calling for the resignation of President Gromyko, the criticism of food supplies, and the denunciation of secrecy at the highest level of the Communist Party, that they began to believe a new quality of discussion was possible in the Soviet Union.

They noted that many of the speeches from the third day on were extempore; that there was more participation from the floor.

They observed too that the balance tilted away from prepared speeches by established party of-

ficials in favour of less formal presentations by younger cadres and workers. There was also more spontaneous debate in the form of exchanges between delegates.

Spontaneity seemed to take over in the organization of the conference, too. Yesterday, the agenda seemed to be in a constant state of flux, with decisions taken to extend sessions, proceed faster, stick rigidly to the 15-minute rule (a bell rings at the end of 15 minutes to indicate that that speaker should stop), and to reorganize the day's business to conclude all working sessions by the end of the day. In the background there were rumours that the conference would be extended to Saturday or even into next week.

Even the spontaneity and confusion, it was suggested, however, might be a help to Mr Gorbachov, even if he had not actually engineered them. The Soviet leader thinks rapidly on his feet, he is a good impromptu

performer and can turn most situations to his advantage. Other officials, even in the highest party bodies, lack his confidence and experience as a performer.

The suggestion has been made that Mr Gorbachov deliberately managed his interventions to outmanoeuvre his opponents. His sparring with Mr Mikhail Ulyanov, the Moscow actor, about press freedom could have been designed to show the Soviet leader as a proponent of greater freedom but not to the extent that party authority was jeopardized.

But it was the call for the resignation of President Gromyko and the Politburo member, Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, by a first secretary from the Siberian region of Komi, that provoked most speculation. Because Mr Gorbachov had asked the speaker to name names, some have suggested that he knew in advance who would be named — and thoroughly approved. If so, to have his opponents condemned

by an "ordinary" conference delegate was an astute political move.

If it did nothing else, it unloosed some tongues. Although Mr Gromyko chaired yesterday's morning session, as had previously been announced, there was no shortage of delegates willing to continue the attack on him. At a press conference in the afternoon, a delegate from Moscow Communist Party, Mr Sagdeyev, was asked about his response to the attack on Mr Gromyko.

To the surprise of all, he said that he thoroughly supported the call for officials responsible for the "time of stagnation" to resign. He agreed that they should be given reasonable conditions — a nice flat in Moscow, for instance — but they should still go.

He supported remarks made the previous day by another conference speaker, Mr V. Starodubtsev, that those who found themselves out of tune with the times should resign. But, he said, he disagreed with him on one

point. Mr Starodubtsev had said they should be deprived of their pensions. No, said Mr Sagdeyev to laughter, they should be offered enhanced pensions to retire.

Outside the forum of the conference, there have been other signs that Mr Gorbachov's influence is perhaps greater than it has been for many months. Last weekend an article denouncing corruption in the Central Asian and Caucasian republics and in Moscow appeared in the progressive journal *Ogonyok*.

It directly accused Brezhnev of turning a blind eye to the spread of corruption and said he had personally protected the corrupt first secretary of Kazakhstan.

On Wednesday, it was announced that the investigation into Churbanov, Brezhnev's son-in-law, was complete and he would stand trial for corruption. And yesterday the weekly *Nedel'nyy* published an article castigating Stalin in terms as strong as anything so far published.

Delegates call on editor to justify corruption claims

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The editor of one of the Soviet Union's boldest pro-*glasnost* publications was called to account by speakers at the Communist Party conference in Moscow for allegations that some of the delegates are under investigation for corruption. The issue has become a running controversy on the periphery of the conference.

The questions began last Sunday when the youth magazine *Ogonyok*, which is edited by Mr Valentin Korotich, published an article about corruption in Communist Party organizations.

The article concentrated on Uzbekistan where, it said, the party apparatus had been riddled with corruption during the Brezhnev years and was still not completely purged. Not hundreds, but thousands of officials had been taking bribes and distributing favours.

The article was written by one of the senior procurators entrusted with investigating corruption in party organizations nationally. But it was not the allegations of corruption as such that drew attention, and criticism, but rather

the charges in the last paragraph of the article. Here it was claimed that some delegates to the party conference were under investigation for corruption and had been improperly elected.

Appearing on the eve of the conference, this was interpreted by some delegates as an affront to their integrity and immediately challenged.

On the second day of the conference, the chairman of the conference's credentials commission, Mr Georgy Razumovsky — who is also a member of the Politburo — announced that "the procurator's office had not taken any decisions to bring any delegates to legal responsibility for bribe-taking".

The roundabout phrasing of his statement still left a question mark over some of the delegates. He went on to say that the allegations made by *Ogonyok* needed more thorough verification and suggested that this be entrusted to the Central Committee and the procurator's office — that is, to the highest party and government judiciary bodies.

After Mr Razumovsky had

spoken, *Ogonyok's* editor was called to justify the publication of the article. He noted that many of the people involved had been able to escape prosecution because of the way the judicial system treats party officials.

They have first to be investigated and found guilty before the party before they can stand trial in court. Many of them escaped justice that way, he said. He went on: "A vicious circle comes about; people who cannot be brought to account before the party cannot be tried, and unless they are tried, they cannot be accused in the press."

The article was written by one of the senior procurators entrusted with the investigation of corruption in the local administration and is unlikely to have appeared without the highest backing.

The author described the obstacles his investigation had encountered since it was initiated (while Andropov was in power) five years ago, and remarked how the times when it stalled coincided with the resurgence of Brezhnevism in newspaper articles. But any

suggestion that conference delegates were under suspicion of corruption was rebutted both by the First Secretary of the Uzbekistan Communist Party and by delegates from the Moscow city organization at press conferences this week.

The handing over of the investigation to the top judicial bodies indicates, however, that the matter is not finished. If it is decided in favour of *Ogonyok*, there could be a double victory — for Mr Korotich and for Mr Gorbachov. The *glasnost*-minded editor would have scored a victory over the many opponents of his policy in the literary establishment, and Mr Gorbachov would have reason for another purge of party officials from the Brezhnev era.

● PEKING: The Chinese Communist Party marked its 67th anniversary yesterday by calling for a cleanout of its ranks to eliminate corruption and incompetence (Reuters reports). The *People's Daily* said that members who had tarnished the image of the party would be expelled.

Russians unveil chemical war centre



British experts and journalists being escorted around a training base for chemical warfare near Moscow. The unprecedented visit took place after a British invitation for Soviet officials to visit Porton Down research establishment. Meanwhile, the first of the US and Soviet inspection teams set off yesterday to start inspecting the bases where the

missiles to be eliminated under the INF Treaty are deployed (Michael Evans writes). The so-called baseline inspections were permitted from yesterday, 30 days after the treaty ratification ceremony in Moscow involving President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov. Twenty American inspectors set off from Frankfurt under the command of Brig-

dier General Roland Lajoie, with 126 missile sites in the Soviet Union, East Germany and Czechoslovakia to check in 60 days. General Lajoie said President Reagan had personally advised him to "trust everybody but always cut the cards". A Soviet inspection team arrived yesterday in San Francisco to check some of the 11 INF bases in the US.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Man acquitted in test of Aids law

Kempten, West Germany, (Reuter) — An Italian Aids carrier was cleared by a court yesterday of charges of having unprotected sex with his West German fiancée, aged 17, in a case seen as a test of new Bavarian Aids regulations. Charges of causing injury were brought by the Foreigners' Registration Office here after the Italian, aged 29, told them he had had sex without using a condom.

Investigations to date showed his fiancée had not been infected with the virus. The judge said the man had not intended to harm her and questioned whether the charges were applicable. The Italian was, however, jailed for 2½ months for drugs offences.

● GENEVA (AP) — A sharp increase of AIDS cases in the United States has sent the reported worldwide total above the 100,000 mark in 138 countries.

Gas attacks admitted

Beau — Iraq had used chemical weapons in its war with Iran, Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, said here yesterday in his country's first public admission of long-standing Iranian claims (John England writes).

But he insisted that Iran had used such weapons first and regularly since the outset of the Gulf War, while Iraq had employed them only in retaliation. Speaking at a press conference at the end of a three-day official visit during which he held talks with Chancellor Kohl, Mr Aziz said: "I am a frank man. I can say that such weapons were used in the conflict."

● BAHRAIN: Thirteen South Korean construction workers were killed and 37 others were injured when Iraqi warplanes bombed an Iranian gas plant near the Gulf port of Bushehr on Thursday, the Seoul-based Daefim company said.

Divers plug gas leak

IJssenede, The Netherlands, (AFP) — Salvage operations resumed yesterday after divers plugged a leak in the sunken gas-carrier *Anna Broere*. Highly poisonous liquid gas was detected seeping from the vessel into the North Sea.

Authorities were unable to say how much of the acrylonitrile, which is also inflammable, had escaped, or why, the Dutch coastguard said. However, pollution in the surrounding water stayed well below the danger level of five parts per million, and tests yesterday evening showed no further trace of the gas. The Dutch-registered *Anna Broere*, carrying 500 tonnes of acrylonitrile, foundered after a collision on May 27 about 60 miles off this north-western town. She is lying at a depth of 105 ft.

Libel action dropped

Vienna (Reuter) — President Waldheim of Austria has dropped a libel action against the World Jewish Congress president, Mr Edgar Bronfman, for remarks made in Budapest in May last year about Dr Waldheim's wartime activities. A spokesman for Dr Waldheim said the President had written to the Vienna public prosecutor's office withdrawing his authorization for the action.

In his letter yesterday, Dr Waldheim accused the United States Justice Department of refusing to help the Austrian courts prepare the case. He said in the letter that one of his aims in dropping the action was "that it is and has always been my endeavour to contribute to calming matters down and reconciliation".

Aircraft hits house

Ploca, West Germany (AFP) — The pilot of a West German military plane was killed and another person was injured when his aircraft crashed yesterday on to a house at the village of Grebin near here, police said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known.

The *Bronco*-type aircraft was stationed at Luebeck in northern Germany and was releasing target balloons as part of a military exercise before the accident. The incident comes after the crashes of three US F16 fighters on Wednesday and brings to 17 the number of military planes destroyed in accidents in West Germany this year.

White House rivals shelve campaign fireworks

From Michael Binyon, Washington

America takes a brief respite from campaigning during the Independence Day holiday weekend, while the two presidential candidates intensify their search for vice-presidential running mates.

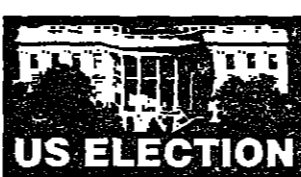
Governor Michael Dukakis has invited the Rev Jesse Jackson, his last remaining Democratic rival, to dinner with him on July 4 at his home in the Boston suburbs, and to a concert by the Boston Pops Orchestra afterwards. Aides said the two would discuss how to maintain harmony and party unity.

Vice-President George

Bush, whose campaign has been rapidly catching up in opinion polls, has been assiduously courting women voters while acknowledging that the country is ready for a change, and that he faces an uphill battle in the autumn.

Mr Howard Baker, the former White House Chief of Staff, who left his job on Thursday, said he would "love to be President", but thought it highly unlikely he would be offered a slot on the Republican ticket.

The Independence Day invitation by Mr Dukakis and his wife, Kitty, to the Jacksons



is seen as an essential and symbolic attempt to give the Chicago clergyman a voice in the choice of the vice-presidential candidate. Despite his earlier protestations that he deserved to be offered the job, Mr Jackson is understood to be reconciled to the fact that he will not be on the Democratic ticket.

The choices for Mr Dukakis have narrowed considerably,

however. In the past week three leading contenders made it clear they were not interested: Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Congressman Thomas Foley, the House Democratic Majority Leader. They all said Mr Dukakis had accepted their refusal gracefully.

The Massachusetts Governor has made it clear he is looking for a person with experience in defence and foreign policy issues. Two well qualified Democrats were visible on the campaign trail as Mr Dukakis ended a trip to the Midwest. Senator John

Glenn of Ohio, the former astronaut who is now on the Senate armed services committee, joined him at an appearance in Ohio yesterday.

Mr Dukakis said afterwards they had had a "good conversation". But aides were playing down his chances, noting his lacklustre performance in the 1984 race and the debts of more than \$2 million (£1.17) still outstanding from that time.

Congressman Lee Hamilton of Indiana, who chaired the House committee investigating the Iran-Contra affair, campaigned earlier with Mr Dukakis in neighbouring In-

diana. Mr Dukakis was hoping to capitalize on the drought afflicting farmers.

Mr Bush, buoyed by polls that now show him only three points behind Mr Dukakis, made much of continued US economic prosperity and what he called the Democrats' message of "gloom and doom".

He acknowledged that after eight years of one party in the White House, "people yearn for change, hoping that change will mean improvement". But he told a fundraising event in New York that it was up to Republicans to bring it about.

Commentary, page 10

US court defies politics to be a law unto itself

In all the presidential and congressional election ballyhoo, the promises of change and trimming of views to meet campaign needs, one vital pillar of the US Government tends to be overlooked. The Supreme Court, whose rulings form the backbone of much legislation and social policy, conducts business according to its own unhurried timetable.

The nine justices are unaffected by the electoral process. They give no interviews. They rarely appear on television. Their judgements, though swayed by their legal views and ideology, are not political verdicts.

But fierce political controversy swirls constantly round the court. And it ended its session this week with a flurry of rulings that will change and divide America more than any twilight proposals by the Administration, or legislation cobbled together by Congress.

In sparing the lives of three young Death Row inmates, the court has taken the first step toward banning the execution of child murderers. It saved the embattled defence industry from billions of dollars in lawsuits by holding them immune from liability for defective products used by the military. It forbade anti-abortion activists or trade unionists picketing the private homes of their adversaries. It allowed government funds to go to religious groups promoting chastity.

It refused to overturn a Louisiana school-funding formula that opponents said discriminated against poor districts. It issued a stinging rebuff to the Administration

in refusing to strike down the law setting up special prosecutors to investigate the Iran-Contra affair or the finances of Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney General. And it has provoked uproar in Congress by announcing some weeks ago its decision to reconsider a key 1976 civil rights ruling that bars racial discrimination in private transactions.

The court has thus intervened decisively in all the big issues at the heart of the election campaign: crime and capital punishment, the Pentagon scandal, abortion, religious fundamentalism, education and poverty, the Iran-Contra affair and corruption

Washington View
By Michael Binyon

in government, and the ever-present question of race relations and civil rights.

The unexpected decision to reconsider the 1976 ruling on discrimination sent a shudder through liberals and a thrill of expectation through conservatives.

At issue was a vaguely worded statute, passed in the wake of the Civil War, that gave blacks and whites equal rights to enter into contracts. In 1976 the court ruled that it applied to private schools, giving blacks kept out the right to sue. In the uproar over the announcement, 169 senators and congressmen, 47 state attorneys general, the American Bar Association and more than 100 civil rights, religious and civic groups are to file briefs urging the court not to meddle with its past decision.

But despite initial delight by conservatives, they too have

been jolted. For the Reagan Administration's own point man in the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General, Mr Charles Fried, said he would take no position in the controversy. And early forecasts that the political pendulum in the court had at last swung to the right have proved premature.

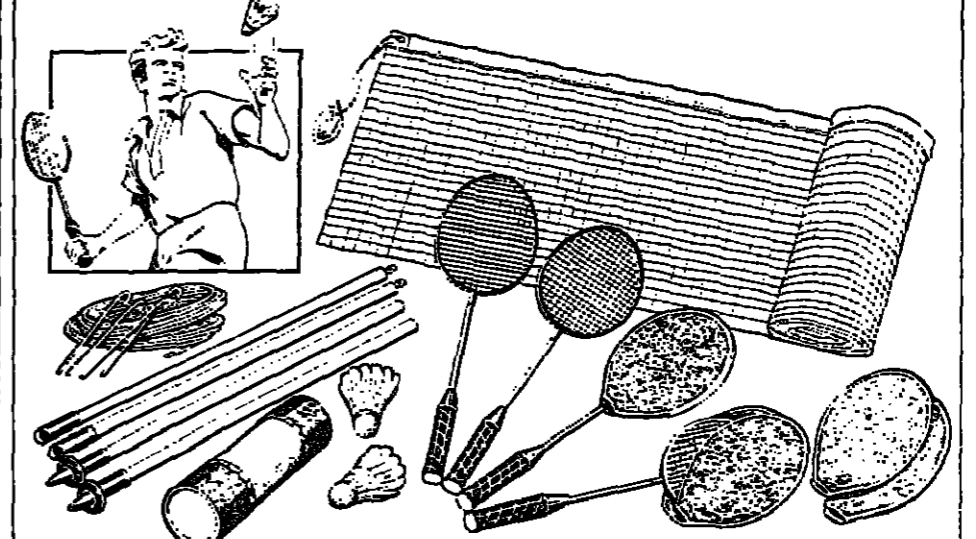
With its crushing decision by 7-1 (the newest justice, Mr Anthony Kennedy, absenting himself) to uphold the special prosecutor law this week, the court rebuffed the White House and again proved its political unpredictability.

Judicial independence is a lesson all presidents find hard to learn. "Packing the Supreme Court simply can't be done," President Truman once said. "I've tried it and it won't work." But his insight did not stop his successors trying. And even Chief Justice William Rehnquist has not proved quite the conservative stalwart that President Reagan hoped on appointing him. The White House should have known.

In 1984 Justice Rehnquist himself said in a speech: "History teaches us, I think, that even a 'strong' president determined to leave his mark on the court — a president such as Lincoln or Franklin Roosevelt — is apt to be only partially successful."

The justices do not sway with the prevailing political winds. They remain, as the framers of the Constitution intended, truly independent. They also remain a powerful force in the land. It is usefully humbling for politicians to be reminded of this as they frame their platforms during an election year.

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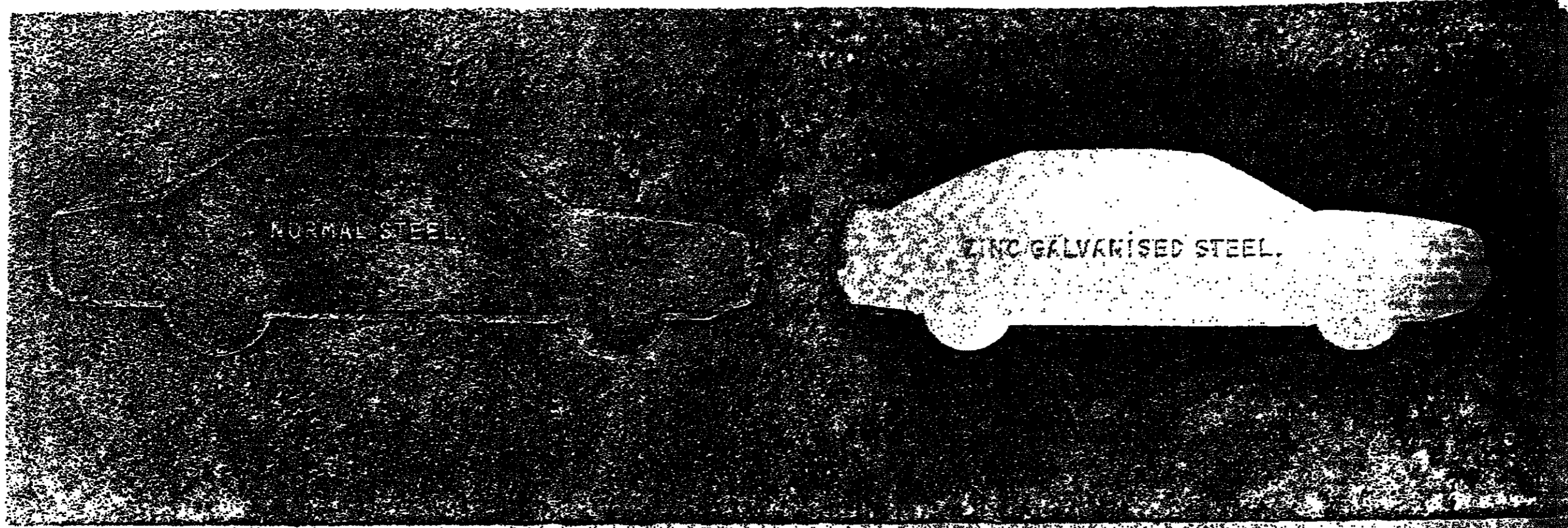
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TO STOP YOUR BODY AGEING PREMATURELY, DR DIETZ PRESCRIBES ZINC.



DR DIETZ had cracked it.

AUDI'S TEN year warranty stood as testament to zinc's remarkable anti-corrosion properties.

AS WE sped home, the fact that we still didn't understand the intricacies of cathodic protection, didn't seem to matter.

EARLIER THAT morning, after a gruelling four hours on a snow bound autobahn, Dr Dietz greeted us at Audi's quality assurance centre.

'THE DRIVING conditions are very wearing,' observed our host gazing out of the window.

FOR A moment we thought Dr Dietz was showing a little compassion.

'CARS IN Germany,' continued the Doctor, 'have to withstand an extremely corrosive environment. You see, in some areas, snow lies on the ground for six months of the year.'

'TO AGGRAVATE the situation, every year the authorities put half a million tonnes of salt and grit on our roads. And the corrosive agents SO_2 and NO_x are present in high levels in our rain and air.'

SUDDENLY LIVING in Britain didn't seem so bad.

'CONSEQUENTLY, AT Audi, we now employ the classic corrosion protection system: zinc galvanisation.'

'BUT DON'T other manufacturers already use zinc?' we questioned.

'INDEED,' REPLIED Dr Dietz smiling, 'most cars have a limited number of galvanised parts: hinges, sills, brackets and some body parts. Only Audi, along with Porsche, have their body shells completely galvanised inside and out.'

'CONSEQUENTLY, WHILE most manufacturers' corrosion warranties are limited to six years, Audi's now extends to ten. Zinc is also likely to increase an Audi's resale value.'

'ARE YOU familiar with galvanisation and the barrier effect and cathodic protection afforded by zinc?' enquired Dr Dietz.

DR DIETZ took his cue from our blank faces. Our metallurgy was, to say the least, a little rusty.

'ALLOW ME to explain. The protective layer of zinc works in two ways. Firstly, the zinc provides a barrier that protects the steel from contact with corrosive media. This purely physical corrosion-resisting property of zinc coatings on steel is referred to as the barrier effect. Zinc, of course, corrodes up to ten times more slowly than steel.'

'SECONDLY, SHOULD the zinc be damaged, exposing the steel, the zinc becomes the sacrificial anode in the electrochemical corrosive reaction.'

'IN PRACTICAL terms this suppression of the anodic reaction of the steel means that the Fe side of the electrode pair is no longer a corroding mixed electrode, but a corrosion-free cathode. The corresponding phenomenon is therefore referred to as cathodic protection.'

DR DIETZ might just as well have been speaking German.

THE DOCTOR endeavoured to explain in more simple terms. 'Should the steel be exposed, the zinc bleeds over the steel. No rust will form until the zinc has been eroded, a process which can take several years.'

'WITHOUT ZINC, how long would rust take to form?' we queried.

'SEVERAL DAYS, maybe less,' smiled Dr Dietz.



'HOWEVER, WHILE zinc is undoubtedly an effective weapon against rust, it can only be one element in a complete range of anti-corrosion measures,' continued Dr Dietz.

DR DIETZ, we sensed, was on the verge of refreshing our memories about the rest of Audi's corrosion protection. Apparently, the 27-operation painting process, the wax-flooded cavities and the chip-resistant elastic undercoat, had all been retained despite the introduction of zinc galvanisation.

THANKFULLY, WE persuaded him they could wait until another time.

HOWEVER, ONE question did remain. 'Why were Audi the only manufacturer, but for the notable exception of Porsche, to adopt fully galvanised zinc bodies?'

DR DIETZ smiled. 'Vorsprung durch Technik,' came the reply.

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Plan to tighten Group Areas Act

Pretoria tables harsh new racial segregation laws

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Government yesterday tabled in Parliament a triptych of draft Bills providing for harsh new penalties for violation of the Group Areas Act...

into recess and will only resume its sittings on August 22, when the new Bills will be debated along with other unfinished business...

said the stiffened penalties were needed to enforce the Group Areas Act. Eviction orders would be mandatory on conviction, irrespective of whether there was alternative accommodation...

Johannesburg, where de facto racial mixing has already taken place on a large scale, might have to be dealt with "in a particular way". But he gave no assurance that they would escape evictions or be legally recognized as "open".

If enacted, the three Bills would give Pretoria much-enhanced power to evict some 200,000 blacks, mixed-race Coloureds and Indians...

If it comes to the point, however, the Government has the constitutional power to railroad the Bills through Parliament without the approval of either the Coloured or Indian chambers...

The third piece of legislation, the Local Government Affairs in Free Settlement Areas Bill, deals with the tricky question of racially-mixed voting and town councils in "open" areas...

Mr Joseph Manete wrote that he perjured himself when he gave evidence against the six after being forced to do so by the police.

The Government has somewhat qualified the new proposals by also making provision for the first time for the legal recognition of some racially-mixed residential areas...

Introducing the new legislation, Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning...

Mr Rolf Meyer, the deputy minister in Mr Heunis's department, told Parliament that areas such as Hillbrow in Johannesburg...

Workers killed: Five technicians at a government-owned steel factory died from burns they received when scalding, chemical-filled water sprayed over them from a fractured pipeline...

West Beirut is rocked by car bomb



Syrian troops watching rescue workers trying to put out the fire caused by a car bomb which exploded yesterday in the Christian town of Bir Elias in the Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon. Police had no immediate details on the Bir Elias explosion. They said it was not close to any Syrian offices but was in an area controlled by Syrian troops. A civil defence worker said most of the wounded in the Beirut explosion were buying food or entering the mosque for Friday prayers. Witnesses said shrapnel sliced through the air. At least 10 cars were damaged and shattered glass littered the streets. Syrian troops fired into the air to keep back the crowds. The fire started by the blast gutted three nearby buildings.

EEC rules 'give Britain the right' to veto plan for European central bank

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

Britain has the right to veto the creation of a European central bank, say EEC legal experts. Their opinion undermines the claim made in the House of Commons by Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party...

governing increased co-operation in the economic and monetary field. According to Article 102a any development in the field of economic and monetary policy that "necessitates institutional changes" in the composition of the EEC is governed by Article 236 of the Treaty of Rome.

He foresaw a time when a European currency would be introduced in parallel with national currencies, but eventually replacing them. "You do not need a full-blown central bank. Existing arrangements are quite sufficient. If the Community moves in this direction, the issue of increased economic and monetary co-operation may not be a rubicon question for Mrs Thatcher."

However, Dr Plender said that in the absence of such co-operation "it is possible to imagine that a protocol on the establishment of a European central bank might be concluded by some member states without the participation of others". This would be very damaging to the Community as a whole, he said.



Mr Colin Eglin: Widely held to blame after 1987 poll. anti-apartheid campaigner, Mrs Helen Suzman. The party, which is mainly English-speaking, has been in a sad disarray since early 1986 when its Afrikaans leader, Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, resigned to pursue a career in extra-parliamentary politics. Mr Eglin was widely blamed for the party's poor showing at the 1987 elections.

Eglin to stand down as liberal party leader

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The leader of the mainly white Liberal Progressive Federal Party (LPPF), Mr Colin Eglin, who is 63, has announced that he will not be available for re-election at the party's annual congress on August 5 and 6. He intends, however, to remain a member of the party and of Parliament.

It is expected that he will be succeeded by Mr Zach de Beer, aged 59, a liberal businessman who is an executive director of the Anglo American Corporation, South Africa's biggest mining house. He is also chairman of the corporation's Southern Life and LTA insurance and construction subsidiaries.

Nato's chief urges Warsaw Pact to become defensive alliance

From Richard Owen, Brussels

On his first day as Nato's Secretary-General, Herr Manfred Wörner of West Germany, yesterday challenged the Warsaw Pact to live up to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's "new thinking" and transform itself into a defensive alliance like Nato. This would lead to "a decisive turn for the better in East-West relations", Herr Wörner said.

gotten across that the drive for reform in Moscow and the Eastern bloc stemmed from a Soviet need to match the attraction and ingenuity of the West. Herr Wörner, aged 53, praised Lord Carrington for his management of the alliance over four years of dramatic East-West developments. He praised his predecessor as "a fine statesman" who had guided Nato "through a difficult and turbulent period with a steady hand".

ened." Herr Wörner said. He urged the Alliance to "keep the initiative" in arms control. On conventional force reductions, Herr Wörner said that the forthcoming negotiations between Nato and the Warsaw Pact in Vienna would be a decisive test of Moscow's "professed more peaceful intentions". He said Nato's goal was to get rid of conventional imbalances and ensure that the Warsaw Pact did away with its capacity to launch a surprise attack.

Germany's Defence Minister. He gained the Nato post with firm support from both President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher. Yesterday Herr Wörner denied that he was a "hawk" in defence matters, commenting that such labels were in any case meaningless. Asked whether it was true that he had opposed the INF Treaty removing medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe, Herr Wörner said that, on the contrary, he had advocated the treaty and voted for it in the West German Parliament. As Defence Minister, he had helped to make the INF Treaty possible, first by deploying Pershing missiles, and then agreeing to their elimination.

left in West Germany after the INF Treaty should be modernized. He said the Nato summit in March had agreed that nuclear weapons should be modernized "when it is necessary". But what this meant in practice would be a matter for negotiation. Herr Wörner said there were "more opportunities than risks" for Nato in the coming period of East-West dialogue. The alliance's philosophy of deterrence and detente had never been in better shape, and the INF Treaty was a good example of what could be achieved by standing united. The West had the propaganda advantage because it embodied the principles of freedom. "The future belongs to democracy and human rights," Herr Wörner declared. His term of office is unspecified but is assumed to be four years.



Herr Wörner: Sees more opportunities than risks.

Sydney flu virus

Sydney (Reuters) - Health authorities in Sydney say hospitals are struggling to cope with the city's worst outbreak of influenza in 20 years, with schools reporting more than 50 per cent of pupils absent because of the virus. One child has died in New South Wales after suffering complications brought on by the virus, the effects of which can last as long as a month.

Asylum plea

Panama City (Reuters) - Senior Abdala Bucaram, who lost the May 8 presidential election in Ecuador, arrived here to seek political asylum after being sought by police on charges of illegal use of funds.

Tale of ruins

Nairobi (AFP) - Somali planes destroyed 80 per cent of the provincial capital of Hargeisa in an attempt to dislodge supporters of the rebel Somali National Movement, a traveller said.

Cocaine haul

Bogotá (Reuters) - Colombian troops confiscated 3.7 tonnes of cocaine after raiding a remote estate in the north-east of the country, arresting three people and confiscating two light aircraft.

Death verdict

Kampala (AFP) - The former head of the President Obote's secret police, Chris Rwakasisi, was sentenced to death by the High Court for kidnapping six civilians, the official Ugandan press said.

Gurkha strike

Delhi (AFP) - A general strike called by Gurkha women militants paralyzed parts of an eastern Indian hill district where more than 170 people have died in a campaign for a separate state.

Holy custody

Manila (Reuters) - Churchmen are to look after Mr Stellan Hermansson, aged 30, from Sweden, and Herr Klaus Schmidt, aged 52, a West German, before their trial on charges of helping rebels.

Envoy change

Tokyo (AFP) - Mr Toshio Goto, a career diplomat aged 58, has been named as Japan's new Ambassador to Yugoslavia, replacing Mr Hirohiko Ohsuka.

Petrol flows

Warsaw (Reuters) - Poland partially lifted petrol rationing for the first time in seven years, producing four-hour-long queues for the "free market" fuel.

Curfew cut

Rangoon (AFP) - The Burmese authorities reduced to eight hours a 12-hour dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed on June 21 to quell student rioting.

Toxic gas leak

Bangkok (AFP) - Thirty-four Thais, including eight children, were taken to hospital after toxic gas leaked from a deserted factory.

Advertisement for Port of Dover. It features the text 'A GREAT CHOICE VIA DOVER' and 'THE QUICKEST CROSSINGS TO EUROPE'. There is an image of a ferry boat and a form for requesting a free copy of the Traveller's Guide to Dover. The form includes fields for Name and Address.

Provincial capital under siege

Rebel grip tightens around desperate 300 in Afghan fort

From Brian Tetley, Qalat, Zabol province, Afghanistan

Three hundred beleaguered Afghan troops, virtually out of food and ammunition, are all that stand between the Mujahidin and the fall of the first provincial capital in Afghanistan...

Members of the Ittehad-i-Islami Mujahidin force have been pouring artillery shells, rockets and mortar fire into the besieged garrison here for three months...



President Najibullah: Bid to relieve Qalat failed.

According to the chief of rebel operations in the nine southern provinces, Commander Abdullah Khan, nearby 20 garrisons and district headquarters have fallen to the rebel sweep through the south...

But the rebel push has stalled here. The Mujahidin expected to take this capital 12 days ago, but the Soviet-Afghan command laid on the first of a series of day-long precision bombing raids...

Mujahidin losses have been heavy - 31 dead and 45 wounded - but morale is high: the rebels took all the outlying defence posts on the surrounding hills in a devastating attack earlier this month.

But Afghan soldiers taken prisoner face trial under the Jirgah, a council of elders. If found guilty they are shot. Seven officers captured at Qalat are being held at Mullah Karim's command headquarters in a harsh mountain retreat...

Meanwhile, the situation for the besieged garrison here is grim. Last month a convoy of artillery and infantry was sent by Kabul to relieve the fort but it was caught by rebels at Shah Jul. When the commander refused to surrender, the convoy, thought to num-

ber 2,000 men, was sprayed with fire. "We killed too many of them," Commander Khan said. Mujahidin losses were three dead and seven wounded...

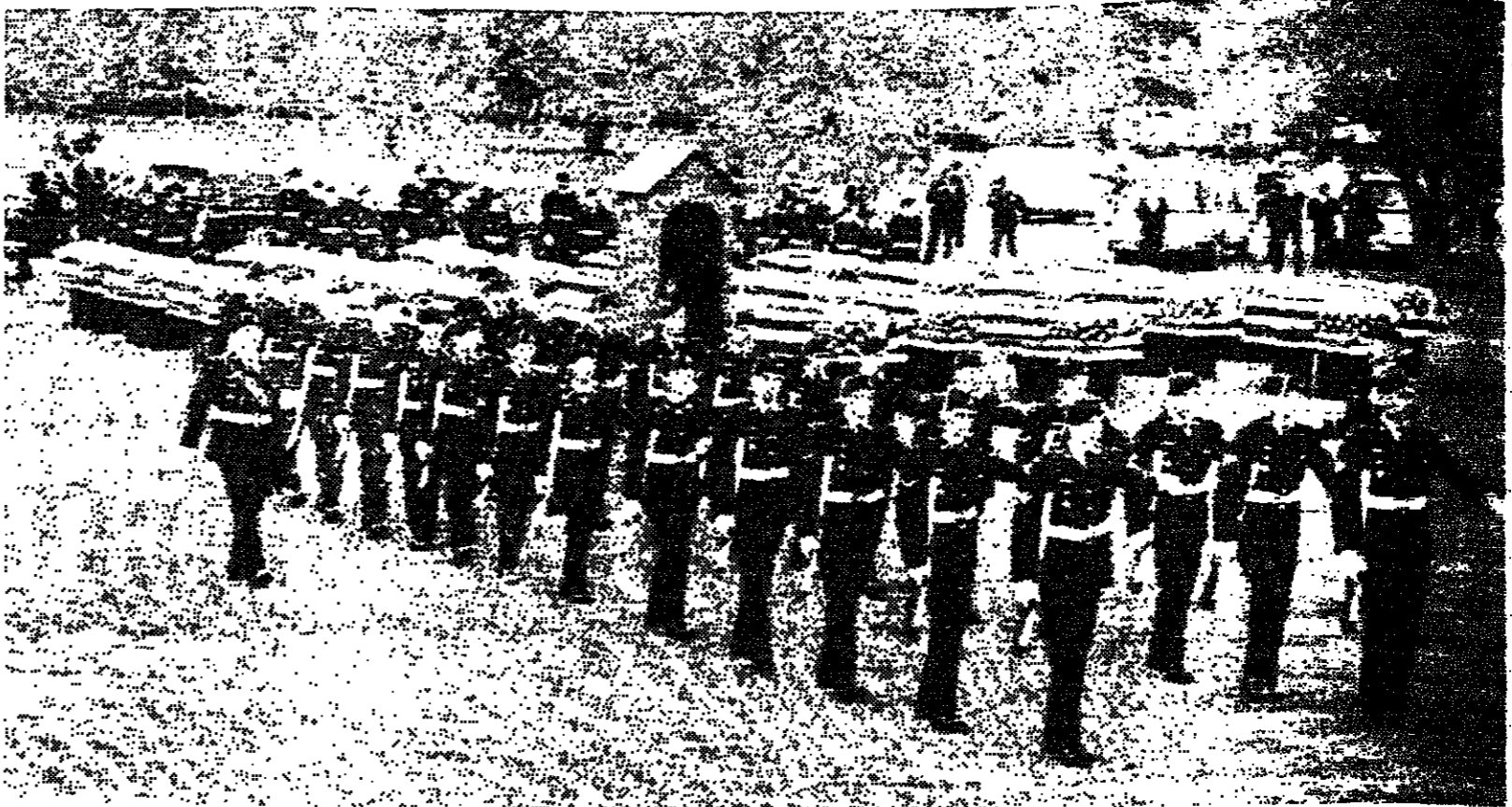
It is not only this city that Russian allies are desperate to relieve. The strategic Soviet missile and air base at Kandahar, nearly 90 miles south of here, is partly besieged...

The capture of the airport there is essential to the Mujahidin, who have no defence against air strikes. So far they have been unable to achieve this.

With the Kabul road cut, the only way out of the city for the 5,000 Soviet troops in Kandahar is along the road leading westwards from the city and then north to the Soviet border. But this route is under siege from the Mujahidin and the Soviet forces are staying put.

But the Mujahidin guerrillas are also being hit by shortages. The assault on the fort stalled partly because ammunition ran out. The only missiles in evidence were those captured from Russian and Afghan troops.

US takes its war dead home after 174 years



The remains of 28 unidentified American soldiers killed at Fort Erie, Ontario, during the War of 1812 against British forces in Canada being returned to the United States with full military honours.

On the night of August 14-15, 1814, an archaeological dig involving military historians and pathologists from Washington helped identify the skeletons as those of US troops. More than 1,900 Americans died in the failed Niagara campaign...

burial in a common grave. On Thursday the flag-draped coffins were carried by hearse in a joint US-Canadian ceremony across the Peace Bridge between Fort Erie and Buffalo, New York state...

American Ambassador to Canada, Mr Thomas Niles, said the repatriation showed that the US Government respected its citizens killed in battle. "Today in the US we are concerned about returning the missing in action in South-East Asia, and we show the same respect to those who died 174 years before," he said.

Boat people told they will be sent back

From Thomson Prentice, Hong Kong

A warning that thousands of Vietnamese boat people seeking a future in Hong Kong will either be sent back or may risk a lifetime behind barbed wire was given yesterday by Lord Glenarthur, the Foreign Office Minister with special responsibility for Hong Kong...

He also indicated that, for the first time, the Chinese authorities are being encouraged to deny the refugees food, water and other support if their flimsy boats call in at Chinese ports.

But while he spoke another 200 boat people were being taken into Hong Kong detention camps after their vessels were intercepted by coastal patrols.

The new arrivals, twice as

many as the recent daily average, have brought the total human cargo to 1,300 in two weeks since Hong Kong announced a new policy under which the arrivals are regarded as illegal immigrants rather than refugees unless they can prove otherwise.

Unlike 16,000 other Vietnamese already held in closed camps, the newcomers do not have even a fragile hope of resettlement.

"Those thinking of setting off from Vietnam to improve their economic situation should clearly understand one thing," Lord Glenarthur said at a news conference yesterday. "However long it takes, they will be sent back to their own country. It is no good their thinking that Hong Kong is any longer a staging

post to elsewhere." Supported by the British Government, the Hong Kong authorities now screen boat people to try to distinguish genuine political refugees from those suspected of being merely illegal immigrants.

Since the great majority are likely to fall into the latter category, in effect all but a handful of those now arriving are likely to be held indefinitely in a converted prison on Hei Ling Chau, a small island about seven miles south-west of Hong Kong.

Lord Glenarthur said he had discussed the boat people with Chinese officials. "Clearly some of these vessels have been receiving sustenance in Chinese ports on the way to Hong Kong and this is something which is being looked at

now by the authorities in China," he said.

But he would not confirm that a request to deny such succour had been made officially.

Since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, more than 120,000 boat people have come to the colony.

Most of them have been resettled in Europe, North America and Australia, but it is estimated that more than 6,000 men, women and children will arrive in the next two months, bringing the total number of refugees awaiting resettlement to 22,000 by the end of August.

Thousands of those now being held in detention camps have been there for years - almost 6,000 children have been born behind the locked

fences in the last 10 years - and about 600 Vietnamese have died there while waiting for freedom.

Permanent base: The British-Chinese liaison team on Hong Kong set up a permanent base in the colony yesterday, nine years to the day before Britain hands the territory back to China (AP reports).

The Joint Liaison Group is a forum set up under the 1984 British-Chinese agreement on Hong Kong's future, for China and Britain to discuss arrangements for the transfer of the colony back to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. The group has discussed issues such as nationality documents, the territory's defence and participation in international organizations.

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Table with columns for tour operators, telephone numbers, and destinations (France, Germany, Italy, etc.).

Planning your continental holiday last minute can be a bit of a nightmare. So we've made it easier for you by listing some of the leading tour operators with the types of accommodation they offer and the countries you can visit.



Migrant tensions bring hatred and fear to the Sind capital

From Michael Hamlyn, Hyderabad, Pakistan

This 220-year-old Indus valley city of a million people is full of fear and hatred. Steel-helmeted troops patrol the streets with machine guns resting on open trucks, and at night a curfew keeps all but the cats indoors.

"I reside in Hyderabad, (but) I have not been able to go home for five days," a young man said. His family emigrated from India 40 years ago after partition, like the majority of the inhabitants of this city and others in the southern Pakistan province of Sind. He is called a Mohajir, a pilgrim, and the Mohajirs and native Sindhis are now at each others' throats.

Without the curfew, everyone is afraid, he explained. "No one is hopeful of an improvement in the situation. Sindhi families have despatched their females and children to the interior."

Sindhis and Mohajirs have fought each other before, in 1972 when a Bill making the Sindhi language compulsory in schools was proposed. "But the new factor is the ammunition collection," said the young man. "Then, there was no access to automatic assault rifles. Now both sides have them. The west of Hyderabad was turned into a battlefield."

The day after the fighting broke out in Hyderabad, it spread to other towns in Sind. Tensions roared about the overheated, parched valley, like the dust columns 100 ft

high which rush through the Sind desert in the heat of the day. Thirty-five people died.

Sind is a tinderbox, a sapless forest waiting for a spark. For three years Mohajirs have fought with Pathans from the frontier province and Afghanistan. Recent immigrants from Bangladesh have fought with drug dealers in Karachi; Sindhis have attacked Punjabis, and now dacoits - armed robbers - haunt the interior wildernesses, feeding off the intercommunity violence, and living by kidnap for ransom.

The basis for all these conflicts is economic: the competition for jobs and education. When the Mohajirs came, they filled the places left by the Hindus who went to India. That is, they became the traders and merchants in the cities, dealing in the produce of the Sindhi farmers of the countryside. They tended to be better educated and therefore took the senior government jobs. Gradually the Mohajir migration ended and a new migration into Sind began, from the other provinces, from the frontier and especially from Punjab.

Punjab is the biggest province of Pakistan, but also has the highest population and the greatest influence. Sind, rich in oil and mineral resources, has access to the Arabian Sea and is fertile ground for new industries. Only this week a new oil and

gas find with a flow rate of 1,872 barrels a day was announced. The Sindhis watched with alarm as control of these resources and these industries fell increasingly into the hands of the Punjabis.

The imposition of martial law for most of the short history of the country has meant that Sind has largely been ruled by a military caste, again dominated by Punjabis. President Zia, for example, is both a Punjabi and a Mohajir. In the small village to which he is confined, Mr G.M. Syed, now aged 85, still nurses his dream of an independent Sind. He has spent 26 years in jail and detention for voicing the opinion that Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the country's founder, was wrong in pursuing the goal of a separate Muslim state and that Sindhis suffer as a result.

"At independence the population of Sind was 47 lakhs (4.7 million), and the percentage of the population of outsiders was 5 per cent," he said sitting crosslegged on his bed. "At present the outside population is 48 per cent, and every year we get another four or five lakhs."

"Within a few years the original Sindhis will be a minority. It is life or death for us ... to survive or become just like red Indians." For many years Mr Syed, who heads the Jive Sind (Long Live Sind) party, has been a lonely and disregarded voice whose views were considered extremist. But now those views are gaining increasing respect among Sindhis. Earlier this month a meeting of Sindhi political organizations came together under his banner to form a Sind National Association.

They put forward a programme of six demands, including a restoration of a historical division of the waters of the Indus, the replacement of Punjabis by Sindhis in industry, the allocation of Sindhi oil to Sind, an end to the imposition of Urdu, and an end to immigration. They also called for an end to "the military occupation of Sind".

"They have built several cantonments because they are afraid to lose this colony," said Mr Syed.

The new acting governor of Sind, retired General Rahmatullah Khan, appointed last week, has a difficult task. If he is too heavy handed he will be accused of oppression. If he is too gentle he risks losing control.



Rich Rio rebels aim for separate city

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

A revolt is brewing in the streets of Rio. But this is not a revolt of the downtrodden. Rio's rebels drive luxury cars, live in glass-sheathed apartment towers and occupy the more choice stretches of the city's real estate. It is a rebellion of the privileged, whose battle ground is the limpid beaches of Barra da Tijuca, "our Beverly Hills", according to Senator Jefferson Barros, of the mayor's office.

Tomorrow the people of this tropical Beverly Hills will vote on whether or not to separate from Rio and establish their own city. If the confederates win, Rio will, for the first time in its 423 years, be dismembered. The city stands to lose 118,000 taxpayers, a tenth of its area, and

the prettiest of its beaches. If the revolt fails, say the separatists, their paradise will be inundated by the sans culottes.

"Emancipation is the only way to stanch the process of ghettoization of Barra, to preserve its ecology and to guarantee an orderly occupation of the neighbourhood," Senator Roberto Medina, a "rebel" leader, said. Senator Medina is best known for a rock concert he sponsored two years ago in Barra. He promises a calendar full of similar events, and even plans a "Brazilian Disneyland".

His confederate movement has saturated the airwaves with television spots featuring soccer stars, artists, and soap opera idols in support of the revolt. But there is a battle of

numbers as well. Senator Medina's movement claims that the city is draining their neighbourhood of its rightful revenues, producing seven times more in taxes than it gets back.

The Mayor of Rio, Senator Saturnino Braga, shows figures that say the opposite. Barra is in deficit, said Senator Pedro Celso Cavalanti, a mayoral political adviser. "It costs the city much more in services and infrastructure than it produces in revenues."

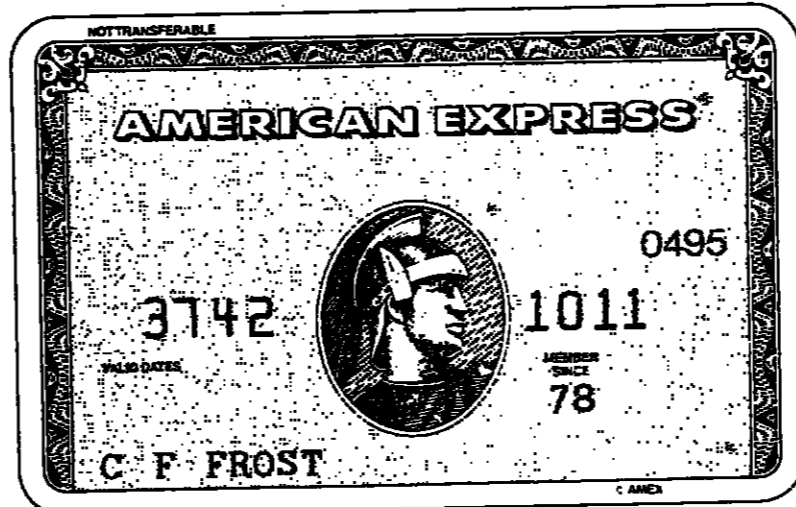
More than taxes is at stake. The confederate movement is in part a protest against a city government that has been unable to halt urban blight and pauperization. Sprawling shantytowns crown the magnificent hills around this sea-

side city. The well-heeled rebels want nothing of these urban eyesores.

However, city officials suspect that the revolt is the brainchild of real estate barons, who want to expand their skyscrapers beyond the limits drawn by Senator Lucio Costa, the architect who designed Barra years ago. The result, said Senator Jefferson Barros, would be a treasure in real estate taxes, but an environmental disaster.

Three years ago, a similar move in São Paulo failed. Opinion polls this week indicated that 54 per cent would vote against the Rio split. The revolt of the privileged seems destined to die where it was hatched, in Rio de Janeiro's finest penthouses.

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TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

The national symbol of Australia, and of Australian sport, is the kangaroo. Every year three million kangaroos are slaughtered, and vast numbers are returned to sports shoes. Well, the argument runs, the beasts need culling, they interfere with arable and livestock farming. But a new report from the Australian Senate's select committee on animal welfare said: "Animal welfare organizations say the level of killing by the industry is determined by economic factors, and not by the need to protect property. This is largely true..." In the end the committee continued to support the commercial killing of kangaroos; this issue is a very hot political potato indeed.

Organizations such as Greenpeace say the kangaroo killing is based on two fallacies: that the animals need to be culled to protect property, and that their skins make the best sports shoe leather. Puma, Tachini, New Balance, Nike and Reebok do not use kangaroo skins, though Adidas and Diadora do.

I shall leave the last word with Senator Norm Sanders, of the senate committee, who dissented from the conclusions of the main report. He ended: "The welfare of the kangaroo must be placed ahead of commercial interests and inept bureaucrats. The present slaughter must cease."

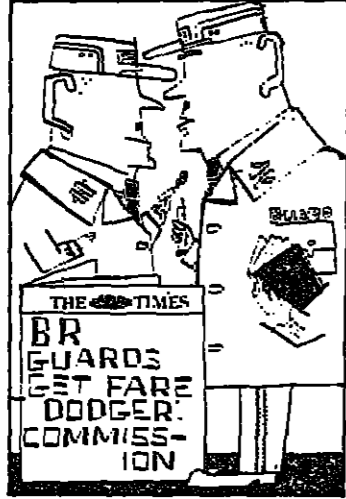
● An ad in the July edition of *The Cricketer* congratulates Mike Garting — "Captain of the Month, May 1988." Pity about June.

Who was the only "beneficed clergyman" to win the men's singles at Wimbledon? Some clues: he had a parish at Burneston, North Riding, and indeed dashed back there to give his Sunday sermon after reaching the semis in 1879. He then returned to Wimbledon to win the final. He played Vere St Leger Gould, who in later life was found guilty of murder, and died on Devil's Island. The clergyman in question was John Hartley, the information comes from *The Wimbledon Quiz Book* by Anne McArthur, and this was as the book carefully points out, "the only time a vicar is known to have played a murderer in a Wimbledon final."

In a recent 40-overs-each-way match in the National Village Knockout competition a total of 47 wickets were called. St Fagans, twice winners of the competition, which has its final at Lord's, were beaten in the final over by Ynystawe — when they bowled a wide. The umpires had warned the players that they were going to be strict in their interpretation of wides, but none of the bowlers expected such carnage. St Fagans bowled 25, Ynystawe bowled 22.

Peter Coni, chairman of Henley Royal Regatta, has long been something of a hate object for women rowers. There are still no women's events at Henley. It comes, then, as a surprise, to find Coni saying: "I would very much like to see Henley catering for women's as well as men's events... Henley is very special, and women do feel very sad that they can't participate as competitors. If a gap in the programme is created then I would very much welcome women's events." Yes, even at Henley, time passes.

BARRY FANTONI



It's two per cent, except weekends, bank holidays and the third Friday of the month.

I am delighted to announce the return of John Arlott — but not, I am sad to say, as a cricket commentator. The man who once said "That ball went through Boycott's defence like a bullet through a hole in a Henry Moore" is to star in an adventure film shot on Alderney, the Channel island to which Arlott retired. He will play the part of a hanging judge called Sir Arlott Johns, in a film called *Rosebud and the Murder on the Alderney Steam Express*. But we will not hear that resonant Hampshire voice: this is a silent film. (Yes, there is a railway on Alderney — the only one in the Channel Islands. It's one and a half miles long with steam and diesel locos, one and a half miles of track.)

This is the column that helps our boys: will anyone who knows the whereabouts of any Lisbon Casuals cricket club members, please telephone Athens 9355610? Jonathan Webber would love to hear from you. He is co-ordinating a tournament involving sides from Athens, Corfu, Milan, Madrid, Tunis, Cyprus and, with luck, Lisbon. The Mediterranean Cricket Tournament will be hosted by Malta in April next year.

You will, I am sure, be pleased to learn that Scotland will be represented by The Team With No Name at the first UK National Spialball Championships, which will be held at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, today and tomorrow. Spialball is a kind of war game, and involves two teams of 15 separated by a quarter mile of rough and woody terrain. The aim is to capture the opposition flag; players are out when they are marked by a paint pellet — splained, in fact. You get 20 points for capturing the flag, 80 for returning it to base, and three for every player splatted. There are penalties for bad language, cheating, foul shots and for infringing the safety rules — in short, a civilized form of warfare, certainly when compared to, say, rugby.

The winners this weekend go on to contest the World Championships in Tennessee in October, with \$50,000 in prize money at stake. An official statement reads: "As yet The Team With No Name have no plans for the money."

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the City of London to the British economy. At a time when our overall balance of payments deficit is widening alarmingly, the one consistently good economic statistic is our invisible earnings. It is vital, therefore, that in the debate about Britain joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System (EMS) the Government takes a strategic view of how to safeguard the City's position.

The Prime Minister, wrongly in my view, is not going to allow Britain to play its full part in the EMS for some time yet. Her opposition has always seemed to owe more to a fear of losing economic sovereignty than to a hard-headed calculation of how British economic interests can best be protected. That suspicion was confirmed when, answering a question from me in the Commons last week, she said we could not have a European central bank until "there is a united states of Europe under one sovereign government", and that would come about only with the "dissolution" of the House of Commons.

Allowing for the hyperbole of Question Time, she must know that is nonsense. But it does reveal how deep-seated is her suspicion of all the moves now

David Owen urges Mrs Thatcher to execute a U-turn now

London, Europe's banker

under way towards European economic and monetary union. She continues to override the views of the Chancellor, who clearly feels that he can better manage steering if it is fully within the EMS system. Such opposition explains why Mr Lawson is considering his position, looking either to the Foreign Office or going to make his fortune in the City.

At Hanover, the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, was given permission with a group of central bankers to look at all aspects of economic and monetary union and, though specific reference to a central bank was excluded to ease Mrs Thatcher's prejudices, it is nevertheless inevitable that a common currency and a central bank will be studied. It is now virtually certain that when the European heads of government meet in Madrid next June they will be grappling with the complex issues surrounding a central bank in a degree of detail

which will politically embarrass the Prime Minister. Though she never admits to doing it, she is a rather dab hand at executing political U-turns. But they come at the last moment with little notice, leaving those who follow too close behind her facing in the wrong direction. I have no doubt that she will execute another U-turn on this vital question for Britain and agree to join a European central bank.

Indeed she has no alternative, for as she told me in the Commons on Thursday, a European central bank can apparently be created without unanimity. The creation of a European bank will be seen as an essential measure for the establishment and functioning of the internal market under Article 100A of the Single European Act. There is a strong case that European countries will not be able to manage the lifting of exchange controls and the freeing of capital flows without some such co-ordinating mechanism.

Whether Britain likes it or not, a European central bank will be set up within a few years. It will grow out of the wider use of the Ecu and the steady transfer of more executive power to the existing Committee of European Central Bank Governors. If Britain obstructs, as over the EMS, the others will simply move on, no doubt allowing us a similar semi-detached position, but dangerously marginalized.

Apart from anything else, Britain's lack of involvement would ensure that the central bank is set up in Frankfurt, Paris, or just possibly Brussels, when all logic dictates that it should be located in London. Indeed, it is a vital British interest that a European central bank should be located in London.

Of course it can be argued that all transactions are now done electronically, and that it is largely irrelevant where a bank is sited. But psychologically it is of paramount importance to Lon-

don's position as one of the world's main financial centres that the co-ordinating authority for Europe's banks should be there.

At present, there is no single rival to the London Stock Exchange in Europe. The relative size of the various exchanges is shown in the table.

The City's "Big Bang" of October 1986 has been mirrored by a series of "Little Bangs" in Europe, and the French Bourse has changed more than most.

We in Britain cannot assume that the City of London's dominance will continue un-

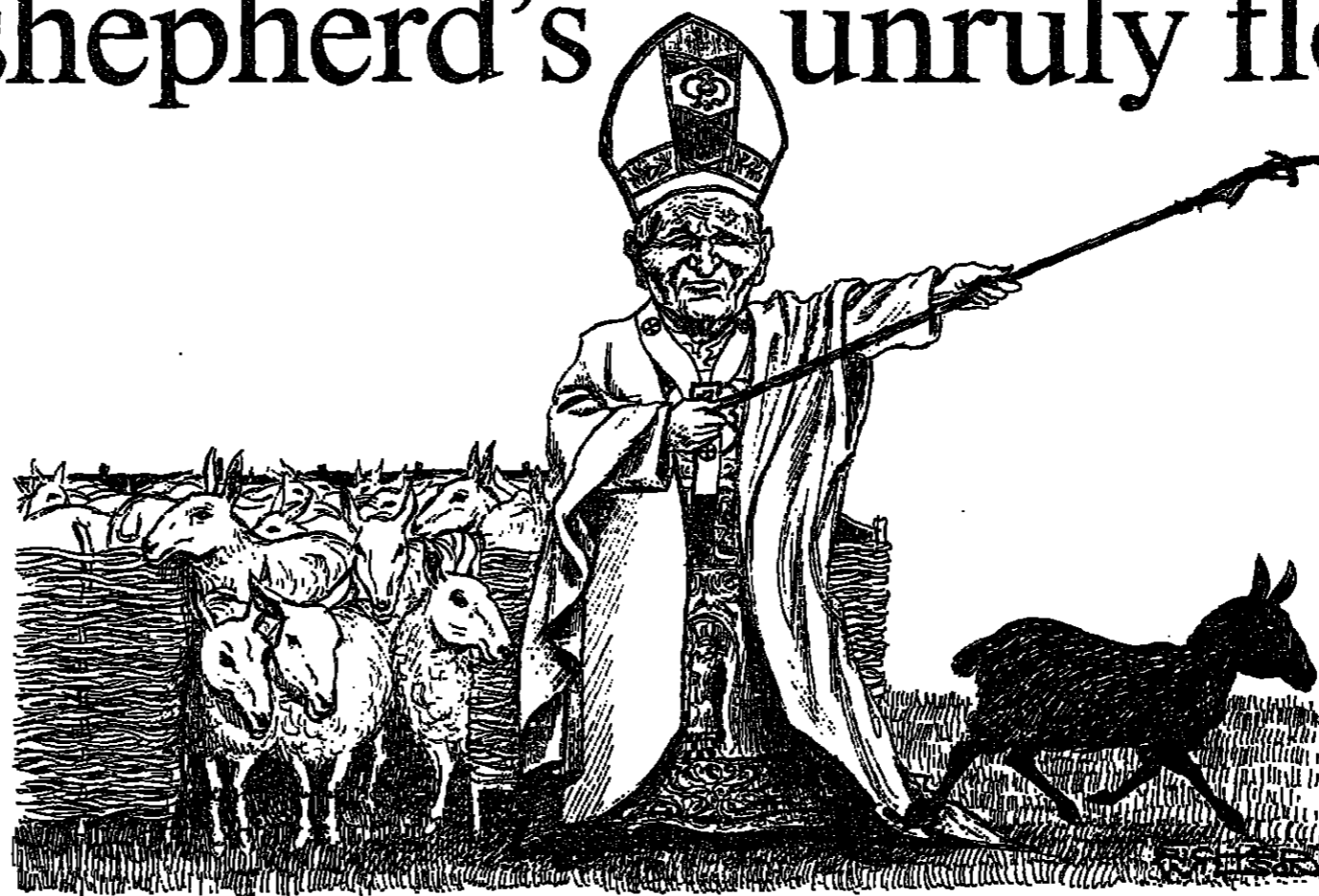
MARKET CAPITALIZATION

(\$bn)	Nov '87	Dec '85
Belgium	28.8	15.3
France	99.6	54.5
W Germany	158.4	155.9
Italy	89.2	45.7
Spain	45.5	14.0
UK	495.4	301.5

(Source: Goldman Sachs World Markets Monthly December 1987)

Clifford Longley

The shepherd's unruly flock



In the sultry heat of the Swiss Alps in summer the familiar plainsong melodies of the Missa de Angelis wafted over the crowd on the hillside like musical incense. There was a beer-and-sandwiches tent further up the hill, the little queues of people waiting for open-air picnic or groups just watching in the humid sunshine. While at the far end of the giant marquee Archbishop Lefebvre was busy breaking with the Pope, his followers seemed to be enjoying a day in the country. This is the Ecône paradox; and the better the church understands it, the better it will be able to handle it.

Monsignor Lefebvre has always held one trump card: his adherence to the Tridentine rite (named after the Council of Trent). His quarrel with the Second Vatican Council on various points of theological principle does not have the same appeal, and it was not what his ordinary followers were talking about on Thursday.

The Tridentine mass was a card he was handed by the church itself, by the inept and insensitive way it was suddenly swept away in the late 1960s. What was compulsory one day was forbidden the next, with hardly a word of explanation. All those disturbed by the change, and dismayed by the flat modern-language services which came in overnight, were potential recruits to any protest movement around at the time.

One lady from Strasbourg, on her sixth visit to Ecône, volunteered the comment that neither she nor two thirds of the others would have been there if they could have heard the Tridentine mass in their local parish church. Her rebellion is therefore precisely like the campaign in the Church of England to preserve the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

She, and her Anglican counterparts, of whom she was certainly unaware, are victims of that modern scourge, the intolerance of liberal reformers.

Lefebvism, as we will now have to learn to call this new Christian denomination, is a much more complex phenomenon than that, however. Prob-

ably too much has been made of its links with Le Pen's National Front in France; for the passions that drive Lefebvre have attracted thousands outside France who know nothing of such matters. The difference may be that in France he has popular appeal, whereas elsewhere Lefebvism is a private choice made by individuals.

They are not unlike the 17th century Jansenists who sought a scrupulous ideal of perfection and purity in their religious affairs. They were, said a contemporary, "as pure as angels and as proud as devils".

A young Ecône seminarian from Birmingham, the Rev Sebastian Wall, was cheerfully dismissive of the imminent excommunication of Lefebvre and the four bishops he was ordaining that morning: "You cannot be excommunicated for being a Catholic." This relaxed spirit of disobedience, in the name of truth or conscience, is a further part of the Ecône paradox. For Lefebvism is at first sight the very incarnation of ultra-conser-

vative Catholicism, an attempt to perpetuate the strict faith of the 1890s or the 1930s, and a refusal to recognize that the modern world has anything to teach it.

But what marked the "Brideshead Revisited" kind of Catholicism was a profound, sometimes almost pathological, sense of obedience. To be excommunicated by the Pope was just about the very worst fate such a person could envisage. Yet at Ecône on Thursday they were almost reveling in it.

I will take the church authorities some days to work out all the implications of Thursday's schism, in particular how widely the excommunications apply. Because it is an automatic penalty, laid down in advance in canon law but still needing expert interpretation, the exact status of a Catholic who attends a Lefebvite mass tomorrow is not yet clear.

Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster has already issued a

statement that to support Lefebvre and worship with his Fraternity of Pius X would be "to leave the Catholic Church", but that was couched as an exhortation, not a canonical sentence. He is disposed to play it very carefully, and to wait for Vatican guidance.

All heresies contain a truth, it has been said, and maybe the same applies to schism. The cardinal told *The Times* yesterday he believed the church must look to the quality of its worship, and ensure that all the spiritual riches of the Tridentine rite were properly preserved in the rite that has replaced it. "We can answer many of their spiritual needs," he said.

Cardinal Hume accepts that there is a case for going even further, and instituting a regular Tridentine mass in Westminster Cathedral every Sunday, as he has the authority to do. It could be a powerful beacon to Lefebvite waverers, as they try to decide where they go from here.

England has led the way in

rolling back the original prohibition of the Tridentine rite. In the early 1970s the late Cardinal John Heenan, Cardinal Hume's predecessor, was granted by Pope Paul VI a unique "indult", or canonical exemption; and this was more recently made universal. So on special occasions organized by the non-Lefebvite Latin Mass society, Tridentine masses still take place in England from time to time with official approval; and the fact that Lefebvre's followers in Britain number no more than a few thousand may be the result.

The Tridentine rite was not, after all, dropped because there was something wrong with it. And there was a hint of thoughtless vandalism in the sudden repudiation of a text which has done so much to enrich Western culture: it is the mass which inspired Vivaldi, Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and many others to produce some of their greatest work.

Such a move would also help to identify the real heart of the matter, which is not about the

challenged. Frankfurt has hitherto protected its insurance industry and has been reluctant to open it up to competition. But now it knows that is inevitable, and it will fight hard to beat the British dominance.

In all areas of financial activity, we will be challenged by our European partners. If we remain aloof from the movement towards economic and monetary union we will lose out.

A vital British interest is to develop a strategy to widen the basis of the EMS so to arrange a more formal link between the yen, the dollar and the Ecu and, within that context, ensure a European central bank that is generally independent and is charged, as is the West German Bundesbank, with the non-inflationary target "to secure the currency".

To influence the design of a European bank should be a paramount objective for Mrs Thatcher of far greater importance than a passionately misplaced obsession about sovereignty. A well designed independent bank could ensure disciplined economic growth for the European Community. A poorly designed bank will be a vehicle for feeding inflation and weakening the long-term economic growth prospects for the Community and Britain.

lurgy at all. Here too Lefebvre is playing back the cards; the church itself has dealt him, for there is a certain vein to his claim to be "more Catholic than the Pope".

The Roman Catholic Church never likes to admit that it has changed its mind, for it is feared in the corridors of the Vatican that it might weaken its command of the faithful's allegiance. But the Second Vatican Council did represent a U-turn on several fundamental questions, not least over religious liberty and freedom of conscience.

Error has no rights, they used to say; it was almost the motto of the Inquisition. But in the new climate yesterday's heretics have become today's "sister churches", partners in ecumenical dialogue.

"Ecumenism" is a word Lefebvre pronounces with particular scorn. It is hard to dispute his claim that he is the more faithful to the old tradition, unlovely though the tradition was. It is also where he is most vulnerable to counter-attack. If Rome is sensible, it will force him into the corner he is already backing towards, identifying him not as an ultra-Catholic but as a neo-Protestant, one who sets up private judgement against the church's living authority. The charges of heresy and apostasy he makes against Rome, to explain how Rome has lost the right to rule him, are just those made by Martin Luther at the Reformation.

And it is the extreme irony of the Lefebvite crisis that once it is passed, and the new denomination establishes its place in the Christian firmament, Rome will be bound to extend to it all the ecumenical courtesy and goodwill it shows all the other non-Roman Catholic churches. Error, in other words, has some rights; and Lefebvism can eventually look forward to being hailed as a sister church, invited to sit round the ecumenical table to discuss its differences.

When that happens, the 82-year-old archbishop will no doubt be dead, and will no doubt turn in his grave.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

Bush the desperate

Washington Britain, like most other countries, has nothing quite like America's "Pledge of Allegiance" in which, on public occasions, we stand with our hands on our hearts and recite an oath to pledge allegiance to the flag, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

The Pledge of Allegiance was invented in 1892 as part of a promotional campaign by a magazine called *Youth's Companion*. The original instructions called for the hand to be removed from the heart and extended outward at the word "flag" — but this bit of stage business was dropped during the Second World War as being too reminiscent of the Nazi salute.

Although the Pledge was once described as "a masterpiece of concise English" it is clearly inferior, both as poetry and as philosophy, to the other sacred texts of American democracy, such as the Declaration of Independence, the preamble to the Constitution, and even the lyrics of *America the Beautiful*. ("Con-firm thy soul in self-control" is my favourite line.)

Generations of school children have shown their indifference to what little meaning the Pledge contains by butchering its text: "one nation under guard," "the Republic for Richard Stands" etc.

George Bush is trying to make an issue of the fact that 11 years

ago Governor Michael Dukakis vetoed a bill requiring recitation of the Pledge every morning in Massachusetts schools. Bush says this shows that he and Dukakis have a different "approach to values". This is a sign of how desperately ugly, and silly, his presidential campaign is becoming. Is Bush trying to suggest that Dukakis does not believe in "liberty and justice for all"? I dare Bush to say so. If not, what, exactly, is his point? That an America where people are forced to recite words they don't believe in superior to an America where they aren't?

In 1943 the Supreme Court held that schoolchildren could not be required to recite the Pledge. Although it was wartime, the court managed — as today's Republican strategists apparently cannot — to reject empty nationalism in favour of what America really stands for. Justice Robert Jackson's majority opinion is far more eloquent than the Pledge of Allegiance. "Freedom to differ is not limited to things that do not matter much," he wrote. And "a Bill of Rights which guards the individual's right to speak his own mind" does not permit "public authorities to compel him to utter what is not in his mind".

Dukakis vetoed the mandatory Pledge law because he thought it was unconstitutional. Before acting, he got an advisory opinion from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which held five-to-two — with three

Republicans in the majority — that the law denied teachers their First Amendment rights by requiring them to lead the Pledge, even if children were not required to participate.

Dukakis and the court may well be wrong. But this is a factually small point. At bottom, Dukakis undoubtedly not only shares the sentiments of the Pledge of Allegiance but favours reciting them as often as possible. And at bottom George Bush undoubtedly would not wish to force anyone to recite the Pledge who conscientiously objects to it.

So what is at stake here is not "values" but rather the tiniest technicality, stretched to cover the nakedness of a man running for president with nothing better in which to clothe his ambition.

Much the same can be said of Bush's other current cheap shot, about a Massachusetts legislative programme that let some prisoners out on furlough. The United States already sends more people to prison for longer stretches than any other advanced western nation, for all the good it does us. But there are always a few votes to be garnered by shrieking "Lock 'em up". Republicans, Bush says, "don't let murderers out on vacations to terrorize innocent people... Dukakis owes the people of the United States an explanation of why he supported this outrageous programme."

In fact, the Massachusetts programme was started under a

Republican governor. Forty-two states have similar programmes. California had one under Governor Reagan.

Only the Massachusetts programme, until recently, gave furloughs to first-degree murderers sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. That, indeed, is a difference. But does Bush honestly believe that the difference between giving furloughs to first-degree murderers sentenced to life with parole and giving furloughs to first-degree murderers sentenced to life without parole is what the presidency of the United States ought to turn on? (Criminal law, anyway, is strictly a state matter.)

For what it's worth, Harvard (where Dukakis attended law school) has always been less elitist, more open to all sections of American society — had more Michael Dukakis and fewer George Bushes — than Yale. But his university education mainly was at Swarthmore — Quaker, academically stringent and scrupulously unobnoxious. Someone like George Bush would never have gone to Swarthmore, even if he could have got in.

The author is editor of *New Republic*.

JULY 2 ON THIS DAY 1977

THE TIMES

Virginia Wade's success, the third by a British woman since the war, after Angela Mortimer and Ann Jones, came during the year of the Wimbledon club's centenary.

WIMBLEDON ACCLAIMS MISS WADE

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent

"It was so wonderful to have the Queen there. The crowd cheering for her and cheering for me. The Duchess of Kent waving. All like a fairy tale." Virginia Wade was bubbling over. She had just emerged from the inevitably emotional scenes on Wimbledon's centre court after her 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 win over Betty Stove, in the women's singles final, which lasted an hour and 38 minutes.

The emotion sprang partly from patriotism, partly from the public's recognition of a player who, at the age of 31, had become champion at the sixteenth attempt. She had been upset, she said, because so many people — reluctant to assess her — had disregarded her chances of winning the tournament. "Everybody thought I was past it and couldn't do it. I wanted to prove that I deserved to be out there among the champions. I felt I belonged — that I was the best player who hadn't won Wimbledon so far..."

Yesterday morning Miss Wade put the pillow over the telephone. She would hardly have heard it

anyway. She was listening to Rachmaninov's second symphony and had the volume control turned up. At Wimbledon she went out to the centre court before the match, to absorb the atmosphere of the place and picture herself playing there...

She had mused, she said, about how exciting it would be going on court with the Queen there, then holding up the trophy, and playing the first women's match on the centre court the following year. "I was aware my dreams. The important thing, knowing I had overcome the biggest obstacle in the tournament, was to play as well as I possibly could..."

The first set, though, was dominated by Miss Stove's imposing physique and lazily explosive shots... It was time for Miss Wade to take a more positive role in the match: to enforce errors rather than hope for them. She had to make Miss Stove dash about. This Miss Wade did. In the second set she went to 3-0 and had points for 4-0 and 4-1. Miss Stove came back to 3-2. But the next game was perhaps the most decisive of the match. Miss Wade had all the crashing pounding fury of a mountain stream following a well defined course as she held her service for 4-3.

That mighty if discreet show of authority came to an end, however, as she was graciously received to Britain. Miss Wade won seven consecutive games...

What a roar there was, what a raging sea of hands. A minute passed before the umpire, dutifully observing the last rites, could announce the score. Then the Queen came on court — the monarch of a realm greeting the monarch of a sport.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

IN GLASS HOUSES

The four hottest years in the last century have occurred in the 1980s. Federal studies in Canada, which are widely accepted by scientists, predict a rise in global temperatures of between 1.5 and 4.5 per cent by the year 2050. Even the lower figure would make the earth hotter than for several tens of thousands of years. When the recent Toronto summit declared that environmental deterioration required "priority attention" round the world, the leaders of the industrialized world were thinking hard about climatic change — and the influence of what has become known as the "Greenhouse Effect".

The process has been discussed by scientists for some time. Certain gases, whose emission into the atmosphere has grown greatly as a result of industrialization, act as insulation. According to the theory, when they are present in excess concentrations the warmth produced in the atmosphere by the heat of the sun may be hindered from dispersing into space, causing world temperatures slowly but surely to rise.

Great debates are taking place about the precise role of "the greenhouse", how quickly it is developing, how bad the results will be, and whether these are already appearing. But that there is substance to the issue is now widely accepted.

The world's climate is a finely balanced natural system. A small rise in overall temperature can have the most drastic effect on weather patterns. Agriculture — still the fundament of organized human society — is also precariously balanced in many areas of the world. Whole areas of US agriculture, for all that nation's technological mastery, can be crippled by a few months of drought. Climatologists are predicting more droughts.

As disruptive as the effect on weather patterns would be the rise in the level of the oceans resulting from a partial melting of the polar icecaps. Once again, the changes being predicted are not large — perhaps around one metre. But for those living in the deltas of rivers like the Ganges, the Yangtze and the Nile, the consequences are all too obvious. Tens of millions of people might be driven from their homes. Low lying parts of Europe like Norfolk could also be affected.

The summit declaration, however imprecise, has to be welcomed. There is a clear lack of symmetry between these cataclysmic predictions and the indifference with which they have been generally received. One reason may, in fact, be the very overwhelming nature

of their implications. Coping with them may need changes in human economic behaviour that few want to envisage. And those in the ecology movements, who have banged the environmental drum for so many years, would have to give up cherished beliefs in just the same way as the electricity producers and chemical companies.

As a result, while "greens" have concentrated on the emotive and immediately dramatic issue of nuclear power, and "realists" have gone on declaring that the Greenhouse Effect is "not proven", little has been done. Much too little head has been paid to hard-headed scientists like Dr James Hansen, the Director of NASA's Institute for Space Studies, who is telling his government that it is time to "stop waffling" and admit the considerable evidence that the Greenhouse Effect is here already.

Some useful courses of action are known already. Nitrous oxide, one of the gases involved, can be filtered from the emissions of cars and power stations. The process is expensive but is already well under way in Europe. Other culprits, the CFC gases used in aerosols, packaging and refrigeration, are on the way to virtual abolition, a process that should be speeded up.

The main element in the greenhouse, however, is carbon dioxide, which results from the burning of coal and oil and can also be filtered from power station emissions. But currently the energy required to do so in coal burning stations is half of that produced in the first place — a ratio which is hopelessly uneconomic.

The destruction of the tropical rainforests, which absorb a good deal of the atmosphere's carbon dioxide, could be slowed. International aid might be geared to compensating governments for regulating their timber industries and settlement policies. A few such schemes are already in operation in Latin America.

The possibility has to be faced that mass production of electricity by oil and coal-burning power stations will be unsustainable in decades to come. Natural gas produces less carbon dioxide, and its use may need to be extended. Shifts towards what is now too dismissively known as "alternative energy" will probably be necessary.

Nuclear energy could become the environmentalist's friend. The fact that the green movements are reluctant to countenance this is another argument for bringing environmentalism out of its green corner and into the mainstream political debate.

SPORTING CHANCES

The first day of the Old Trafford test (not to mention the first days of Wimbledon) induced that queasy sensation so familiar to followers of our top sportsmen and women. The poor displays would be more tolerable if there were better signs that out on the playing fields a successor generation were padding up, or practising their services, to retrieve lost honour.

The performance of top teams, the achievement of individual athletes and swimmers cannot be seen separately from that of youth teams, junior sides, and the rest of the arduous process by which adolescents, sometimes even children, commence preparation for championship. This is therefore a good week in which to receive new Government proposals for the facilities available to those would-be champions.

A number of questions must be answered. Do they help expose youngsters to games and sporting skills? Do they make feasible regular practice for the dedicated? In general, aside from economic gains, is there any good for sport in the Department of the Environment's proposals to privatize the management of recreation facilities?

As Environment Secretary Mr Nicholas Ridley is simultaneously responsible for local government and for sport. He is anxious, sometimes with reckless regard for his own political reputation, to push and pull the councils into his ideal shape of being "enablers" as opposed to "providers". He at first considered forcing councils to sell off their sports facilities altogether. Now he has compromised and produced a set of regulations that would retain local authorities as the owners of baths and sports centres while forcing them to put their management out to competitive tender.

In principle here is a useful means of checking the cost of municipal management. Where a private firm showed it could manage

the baths more cheaply than the council, there would be a gain in public service as well as financial benefit. Local government's often automatic objections to competitive tendering obscure the absence, till now, of comparative data: how can a baths management be properly assessed unless there is a way of comparing its performance with a would-be replacement?

Thus Mr Ridley, wearing his efficiency-in-local-government hat, has simply been consistent and applied to baths and sports centres the managerial tests applicable to refuse collection, council house building and so on. But his paper stops short of some of the questions which he might have answered if he had for a moment donned his sporting cap.

Can a private manager be given the necessary degree of autonomy in his operations while he is not free to amend the tariff for the hire of the judo mats at will? But if he is free, what happens if those mats go out of the price range of families with energetic boys and girls for whom that sport could be of enormous benefit? In many areas the manager of the sports centre will have an effective monopoly.

Here once again is the problem of having to apply a single formula to different local sets of circumstances. Mr Ridley needs a tool to pressurize local authorities into minimizing the cost of administration. Contracting out defined management jobs is such a tool. But neither the minister nor the local authorities should forget that the name of the game is providing opportunities for the public to take part.

Public provision of opportunities to swim, exercise, play ball, and generally absorb youthful high spirits has benefits well beyond those who immediately take part. As long as this is true (and the case for it has surely never been stronger) there is a case for subsidy. The managerial tool of private, profit-seeking motivation should be used to its fullest extent without the restriction on access to facilities.

Law on home taping

From Mr Michael Freegard and Mr Robert Montgomery

The letter from the Director of the National Consumer Council (June 23) misinterprets public opinion, and Britain's international copyright obligations.

The Berne Convention, to which the British Government has agreed, binds the rights of a composer as over his music in as meaningful a way as it protects rights over tangible things. Government ministers are publicly committed to retaining that position, but the only solutions they have offered as to how the principle behind the law can be effectively enforced are that copyright owners should take copyright to court or that home taping systems should be introduced to make taping practically impossible.

Composers and other copyright owners have always thought both these options undesirable and unpopular, and we were pleased to find this week, through a nationwide MORI opinion poll, that most British people agree. Seventy per cent of respondents who per cent already realised that home taping

was unlawful (60 per cent of total respondents) thought that a royalty levy on blank tapes was the best solution.

It is, moreover, a solution which would benefit everyone, in that home taping would thereby become lawful and anomalies of the kind highlighted in Mr Healy's letter would disappear. Only 3 per cent preferred the idea of court action, with 16 per cent for spoiling and 11 per cent "don't know".

This gives public endorsement to the all-party amendment recently introduced to the Copyright Bill in committee which facilitates the establishment of a levy at some future time. It also endorses the view of most European states. Levies on blank tapes are already operative in France, West Germany, Spain and Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Finland and Hungary, Holland, Italy and Belgium are considering a levy.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL FREEGARD,
R. W. MONTGOMERY,
Joint Chairmen, Music Copyright Reform Group,
29/33 Berners Street, W1.
June 24.

Missing time

From Mr Edwin R. Holt
Sir, Grandma had an odd way of telling the time. If the hour were, say, 6.38pm she would reply to her enquiring small grandson, "It wants but two and 20 minutes of seven o'clock".

At over 80 years of age and with little or no formal education (around 1850, in rural Kent) she needed time to calculate and express the answer, much to the amusement of the child.

The clock in question, a 30-hour American pine-cased mantel about 12in high with Roman numerals and pendulum ensuring accurate timing for a century, was as described to Shanklin police a week ago by the once-bemused grandchild, following burglary at his home.

But time marches on, however expressed. Today the grandson — alas, now without the treasured timepiece — can reflect, sadly, by calendar and in that same curious manner, that it wants but three and 30 years of his own century! Yours sincerely,
EDWIN R. HOLT,
20 Queens Road,
Sandown, Isle of Wight.
June 22.

Rights and duties under secrets law

From Mr Aubrey Jones
Sir, May I express agreement with your view (June 30) "that each and every employee of the security and secret intelligence services [should] have a cradle-to-grave obligation... to keep quiet about their work" provided — your proviso — "that executive management of secret agencies demands external oversight of some kind."

There are several reasons why the proviso is important. First, what was necessarily secret yesterday is not necessarily secret today. Several of my acquaintances were members of the secret agencies during and immediately after the Second World War. I doubt whether there is anything which they could say of their then experiences which would do prejudice to national security.

Second, officers of the secret agencies, being human, are fallible and can therefore perpetrate injustices. I know of one individual who was effectively dismissed from his position for an alleged communist association. He has

since been knighted under Mrs Thatcher's Government. The subsequent honour may be said to palliate an earlier injustice; it does not obviate it. Memory also tells me of the pursuit of the wrong man who happened to possess the right name.

Third, an agency whose servants are obliged for ever to keep everything secret will never develop an objective view of the world. It will see everything around it through a miasma of suspicion and therefore proffer unwarranted observations and conclusions. That is one of the more important lessons of Mr Peter Wright's book.

Fourth, intelligence is potentially an important part of public policy. How important and how worthwhile, however, cannot be measured if its practitioners are obliged for ever to keep everything to themselves.
Yours faithfully,
AUBREY JONES,
As from: 89 North End House,
Fitzjames Avenue, W14,
June 30.

Ill fares the land

From Miss Ruth White
Sir, Mrs Bell writes (June 22) to complain of the increased acreage of arable farmland in recent years and her concern that EEC set-aside payments will lead to the countryside becoming neglected and weed-infested.

It is Wimbledon fortnight and within living memory the Centre Court was put under the plough to provide more food to feed the nation. Farmers responded, incurring massive capital investment. Now surpluses have called for a complete reversal in agricultural policy and grants made available to fill the granaries must be paid to keep them empty.

The minister has announced that set-aside payments will be for land laid fallow on which a green

cover crop must be planted and "farmed in accordance with a schedule of conditions designed to maintain good agronomic conditions and protect the environment."

The public should be aware that set-aside is not a handout for farmers to sit and watch thistle-down blow across their farms. It is a grant scheme that offers limited incentives for some farmers to put arable land to grassland, woodland or non-agricultural uses. I doubt whether it will achieve its objective, but I am confident it will not persuade farmers to despoil the countryside.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH WHITE,
Cluttons, 24 Milsom Street,
Bath, Avon.
June 24.

Sir Denis Hamilton

From the Director of the International Press Institute
Sir, No one could have described Sir Denis Hamilton better than Edward Heath in his memorial address:

A man with extraordinary qualities of tact, diplomacy and skill, a man who held the profession of journalism in high esteem. He was no lackey of any government of any colour, or any minister, or any proprietor. It was the fairness of views that mattered, and for that he will be long honoured.

The International Press Institute, which Sir Denis Hamilton supported for many years, has decided to hold an annual lecture in London in commemoration of his life and work.

The Institute has set up a small

committee consisting of Frank Glines, Cushman Irwin, Rosemary Risher, together with chairman Enrique Zileri and myself who will choose a speaker each year to give this lecture. The theme of the lecture will be "editorial integrity."

Lady Hamilton has welcomed and expressed her full support for this memorial to her late husband.

We intend to arrange the first lecture in the spring of next year. The date and place will be announced in good time and it is hoped that many friends and colleagues of the late Sir Denis Hamilton will attend.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GALLINER, Director,
International Press Institute,
Dilke House,
Malet Street, WCI.

In praise of song

From Mr Antony Randle
Sir, Armada fever is with us — so one of your pages this morning (June 25) tells us — for the second time in 400 years.

With the present discussion on choral decline in mind (letters, June 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 25) perhaps it would be as well to remind ourselves that 1588 also saw the publication of *Psalmes, Sonets, & Songs of Sadnes and Pietie* by the founder of the English madrigal school, William Byrd.

In this, the first publication of the composer to contain secular works, we find

Reasons briefly set downe by th'author, to perswade every one to learne to sing.

And convincing reasons they are too, meriting display in every music school, with every pupil taught to share in the aspiration of Byrd's final couplet:

Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learne to sing.
Sincerely,
ANTONY RANDLE (Organist and Director of Music),
Arnold Lodge School,
Kenilworth Road,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire.
June 25.

Cathedral glass

From Professor Robert Macmillan and Dr Rowland Mainstone

Sir, Sadly, it is not only at Ely (letters, June 21 and 25) that valuable glazing is under threat.

The rose window in the north transept of the cathedral and abbey church of St Albans is probably Lord Grimthorpe's most successful contribution to the late 19th-century restoration. Its central cusped light and surrounding rings of 36 others are notable for their ninefold symmetry. But its chief interest lies in the imaginative way in which all these lights clear glass is set in varied symmetrical leaded patterns of triangles, squares, pentagons, hexagons, and seven, eight and

nine-pointed stars. No two lights are the same. To our knowledge, there is nothing comparable either in Western or in Islamic art.

A hundred years after its completion, it is now proposed virtually to destroy this unique example of the glazier's art, in order to introduce colour.
Colour could still be added to the existing design of the glazing in such a way as to develop further its interest and manifold latent symbolism. However, we understand that the cathedral council is still intent on its destruction.
Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MACMILLAN,
ROWLAND MAINSTONE,
20 Fishpool Street,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
June 28.

Changes at Lloyd's

From the Chairman of Lloyd's

Sir, I am reported (June 30) as being criticized by Mr Tom Benyon over the Council of Lloyd's approach to the implementation of a key recommendation concerning deficit clauses made by the committee of inquiry into regulatory arrangements at Lloyd's (the Neill committee).

At the general meeting of members yesterday Mr Benyon was critical of the composition of the Council working group which produced the consultative document on which the views of Lloyd's 33,552 members are being sought.

The Neill committee, while recommending an altered balance within the Council, endorsed the absolute necessity of the practitioners being a part of it. The essence of self-regulation is that the practitioners themselves must play a fundamental role in the development of the rules to be applied to the society.

If Mr Benyon's concerns were to be followed to their logical conclusion, the Council of Lloyd's would contain no market practitioners at all, which surely, in the context of a self-regulating society, is a nonsense. The answer to the problem, if there is one, is always to ensure a proper balance of working members and outside representatives within the Council

Strengthening props for family life

From the President of the Pre-school Playgroups Association
Sir, Mrs Inga Miller, who refers (June 27) to the value of pre-school groups in countering violence among young people, may like to know of the Pre-school Playgroups Association. Over 600,000 children attend our member groups, in which parents can be involved should they want to be.

Parents who participate learn not only how to help their children to develop their capacities but, in doing so, gain support and insight into child-rearing and parenting.

Where parents establish a framework for their child's behaviour in the early years, the child is less likely to get into trouble as he grows up. This framework can be better established with the advice and support of other parents.

The PPA has grown amazingly since its inception in 1961. It now reaches parents in all walks of life, showing that, given the backing, parents have the skill, or can develop the skill, and take the responsibility for setting up, organising and managing services for their children.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN MACFARLANE,
President,
Pre-school Playgroups Association,
61-63 King's Cross Road, WCI,
June 27.

From Mrs Elizabeth Sibley
Sir, Is the work of a caring parent now to be regarded as worthless and quality childhood unimportant ("Children blighting careers for women", June 28)?

A-level syllabuses

From Dr W. A. Phillips
Sir, The Secretary of State for Education recently announced (reports, June 8, 9, 20) that the Government did not accept the Higginson committee's proposals for modifying the principles that govern A-level syllabuses and their assessment. It will be very unfortunate if, as a consequence, the Government does not consider the present role of A-levels in relation to changes that have been made elsewhere in the educational system.

To argue that the difficulties caused by the introduction of GCSE precludes any changes in the educational system for the 16 to 19 age group is to ignore the fact that changes in existing A-level syllabuses will inevitably have to be made. Instead of treating each syllabus in an *ad hoc* way the report has provided the framework for a more consistent and sensible approach.

The introduction of A/S levels has also raised problems which a coherent educational philosophy would have avoided. In particular the expressed claim that A/S levels lead to a broader education is true in part, but at the expense of increased specialisation from the age of 16.

Young people taking two A/S

Surely abandoning children to "care facilities" is not the answer to ensuring equal employment opportunities for women.

We should recognise the immense value of childhood and parenting, by both parents, and only when the job of loving, caring for and educating society's next generation is rightly regarded as worthy will equal opportunities be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SIBLEY,
344 Goldhawk Road, W6,
June 29.

From Mrs Frances Savin
Sir, Having a family used to be the ambition or expectation of most young girls who, in the event, gave up their jobs and devoted themselves to their families.

Now, this is regarded as an interruption to a career. The emphasis is on "career breaks", child-care provision and future prospects. More concentration by women on family life would seem to be necessary if the next generation is to be sufficiently numerous and to consist of well-adjusted people.

In spite of the proposed tax changes for women, there is to be no material advantage to unmarried wives unless they have a private income. Child benefit, which replaced tax allowances for children, has been frozen and is considerably less than that paid in continental countries.

Sincerely,
FRANCES SAVIN,
3 Wakelin Chase,
Ingatestone, Essex.

Skulduggery

From Mr Paul Gatch
Sir, Though shocked I am not surprised at Robert Fisk's description (June 14) of the latest desecration of the grave of Lady Hester Stanhope at Djoun in the Lebanon.

Some guilt for not preventing the possibility of this happening must, I believe, be borne by myself and other British residents. Irregularly from 1971-75 I would visit from Beirut the ruins of Lady Hester's residence (by then on farmland) high up above the sea and Sidon, and pay my respects at her modest tomb, abandoned among the olive and orange trees.

Each year the inscribed marble plaque topping the five-stepped limestone monument became progressively cracked, broken and lastly incomplete. This I recorded on film and made representations about in Beirut.

Yet clearly we did not pursue vigorously enough our campaign that the British community should then raise money by artistic manifestation and appeal sufficient to safeguard the structure, and so the memory of a unique, albeit eccentric compatriot.

When I last read the bilingual inscription it stated simply: Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope, born 12th March 1776, died 23rd June 1839.

This letter is written on the 149th anniversary of her death. Surely now and next year, on the 150th, we can do better by a remarkable woman who was the granddaughter of one and the hostess/niece of another great Pitt prime minister.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL GOTCH,
15a Copse Hill, SW20,
June 23.

Showing a leg

From Mr John Spencer
Sir, There seems no escape from the tyranny of fashion. The so-called "plus-twos" now replace the traditional "plus-fours".

Plus-twos are serviceable enough for fishing, shooting or golf. But are the socks to be worn outside or inside the fore-shortened trousers?

How would Jeeves have advised Bertie Wooster on this important sartorial matter?
Yours etc,
JOHN SPENCER,
24 John Islip Street, SW1,
June 20.

Thames troubles

From Wing Commander Derek Dudley Martin
Sir, Your correspondent (June 25) rightly calls attention to hoologianism on the river Thames. There are many other examples of misuse of this waterway by a thoughtless minority. Riverside parishes are very familiar with riverbank erosion caused by speeding launches, but only recently have we experienced water skiing on the Thames upstream of Hurley lock. Not only does this create excessive wash and erosion, the noise is disturbing and the danger to other river users obvious.

With so much activity on the Thames during the summer it is strange that there is no requirement for third-party insurance. Anyone can drive any sort of boat without any requirement to be insured against damage to other persons or property.

This growing misuse of the river is likely to continue unless river patrols are increased. Perhaps a solution might be the formation of a Special Constabulary for the river which could operate during the summer season.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK MARTIN,
Cobble Wood, Medmenham,
Near Marlow, Buckinghamshire.
June 26.

Poor little Buttercup

From Mrs John Randle
Sir, During Henley's Royal Regatta those living on the banks of the Thames clearly have a problem. A notice seen upon one gracious lawn reads "Beware Wild Ranunculus".

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH RANDLE,
1 The Willows,
83 Vincent Square, SW1,
June 29.

and its committees and working groups.

Market practitioners constituted a minority on the working group. Moreover, the group's chairman was the most senior of the Council's eight nominated members. The working group also included another nominated member who was a member of the Neill committee and an independent solicitor to represent the interests of Lloyd's Names.

I trust that this letter will put the matter into better perspective.
Yours sincerely,
MURRAY LAWRENCE,
Chairman,
Lloyd's,
1 Lime Street, EC3,
June 30.

01-481 1920

01-481 1920

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

Table listing concert programs for the South Bank Centre, including Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall.

ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS Summer Festival 1988 at the CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL 3-20 JULY Jazz at The Porter Town Room

BORODIN QUARTET ONLY LONDON CONCERT THIS YEAR at the QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

CONCERTS: ST. JAMES CHURCH PICCADILLY, THE LONDON TOWN & MODEL THEATRE

EXHIBITIONS: MRS HOWARD A WOMAN OF REASON, THE LONDON TOWN & MODEL THEATRE

OPERA & BALLET: CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

THEATRES: ADELPHI, THE FOREIGNER, HADDOCK, THE MOUSTRAP

WIGMORE HALL: ENGLISH STRING QUARTET, MOZART, BEETHOVEN

St John's Smith Square: BRIT LINCHEAT CONCERT, HUMPFREY LYTTELTON & MARION MONTGOMERY

St. John's Smith Square: ANNA JOSEPH (violin), Academy of London

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, SUNDAY 17 JULY at 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

BARBICAN

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN

TONIGHT at 8 p.m. MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE BALLET ORCHESTRA OF SADDLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET

SATURDAY NEXT 9 JULY at 8 p.m. OPERA GALA NIGHT

TUESDAY 12 JULY at 7.45 p.m. THE COTTON CLUB REVISITED

WEDNESDAY 20 JULY at 7.45 p.m. PETER SKELLERN IN CONCERT

THURSDAY 23 JULY at 8 p.m. TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING

FRIDAY 25 JULY at 7.30 p.m. PLACIDO DOMINGO

THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA FALSTAFF

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL: Verdi: REQUIEM

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: ROYAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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July 2-8, 1988

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

PLAYING A SHADOW

Will an elderly Californian recluse watch Navratilova beat her 50-year-old Wimbledon record today? Linda Pentz sets the scene

When she beat Chris Evert in last year's Wimbledon semi-finals, Martina Navratilova cried for her friend and rival. "I wanted Chris to win it one more time," she says.

One of them is the West German Steffi Graf aged 19, who stole 31-year-old Navratilova's world No 1 ranking last July and has clung on to it ever since.

Wills Moody is one of her great idols, though the two have never met. According to Ted Tinling, who as call-boy led Wills Moody on to the centre court for all her victories, and who still keeps in touch with her: "Helen has made it known that she likes Chris Evert because she's such a lady. I think that's self-explanatory. She was extremely beautiful, with a cathedral calm, totally unapproachable and totally unlike Martina."

Wills Moody, 74, is the only player he had known who had a superiority complex. In contrast, Navratilova is still an awestruck child when it comes to stars. While she would like to see herself go down as the game's greatest, she cannot quite believe she has even won Wimbledon once. Indeed, she is still in awe of Evert, even though she has in the past broken Evert's record of a 55-match winning streak, taking the total to 74. On Thursday she gained revenge at Wimbledon over the two previous defeats inflicted on her by Evert in 1983, now the only barrier between her and nine Wimbledon singles victories is Steffi Graf.

Graf's victories over Navratilova in 1987 included a



Face of a champion: a backhand from Martina Navratilova, in typically determined mood on her way to fight for her singles title when she meets the world No 1, West German Steffi Graf, at Wimbledon today

EIGHT WINS APIECE: HOW THE CHAMPIONS COMPARE

Table comparing Helen Wills Moody and Martina Navratilova's records from 1927 to 1938, listing years, opponents, and sets won/lost.

drubbing at the Lipton Tournament and an important win at the French to claim the title. But in Navratilova's domain, Wimbledon and the US Open, Graf has yet to prove herself. A win today, therefore, will keep the teenage predator from the door a little while longer.

Young as she is, Graf also has the record book in mind. After victories in the Australian and French Opens, she has a serious chance of the Grand Slam this year - and that would constitute a calendar Grand Slam, the genuine article, with all four titles coming in the same year, not the May-to-May version that Navratilova scored in 1983-84.

Navratilova also won three non-calendar Grand Slams in doubles with partner Pam Shriver, all ending at the French Open, in 1984, '85 and '87. And she stands second to Margaret Court in total Grand Slam titles, with 48, behind Court's astonishing 66.

Navratilova is most reminiscent of Court - strong, muscular and aggressive - but balks at the

comparison. She has a strong sensitivity to size and to her, the 6ft Court was "big". Perhaps that has encouraged the long-standing partnership with the 6ft Shriver, around whom Navratilova, 5ft 5in, can feel petite.

Sensitivity - perhaps an over-abundance of it - has cost Navratilova dear in the past. But it has also blessed her. She will forever remember the 1981 US Open final where she blew a lead to hand the title to Tracey Austin - but, as a new American citizen, received a resounding ovation from the crowd while tears poured down her face.

That was a big day for Navratilova - as big, perhaps as June 21, 1981 had been, the day she received her citizenship. Navratilova belonged, which is what she always wanted. Hence the ever-present entourage of friends, coaches, trainers, cooks, nutritionists, dogs and dog-walkers who accompany her everywhere, whether to her practice

sessions at home in Fort Worth, Texas, or to the demanding greensward grass of Wimbledon.

And hence, too, her willingness to work tirelessly for needy children, battered wives and orphaned animals - for those, like herself, who strive to belong and are grateful for a helping hand.

There is scarcely an issue on which she does not have an opinion. In some instances, however, her actions have already spoken louder than her words: she currently supports a Fort Worth orphanage. "When I'm through playing, I'm quite sure I will be involved in fund-raising for Aids, battered women, old people who die because they can't afford to turn on the heat, kids, animals."

Navratilova is not the typical tennis player and knows it: a feminist, a lesbian, a bit of a radical, the author of a startlingly honest autobiography, but, above all, a supremely well-tuned athlete. Consequently, her private life has come under constant scrutiny.

She believes her integrity has helped her win allies, even among critics who would criticize her choice of lifestyle. "I'm happy with my life. I'm happy with the person I am. I like me. I hope I have a positive effect on people. I feel I have made a difference in people's lives."

Her dedication to fitness, she feels, has helped pioneer a new trend among young women. "I'm a human being and healthy and strong and muscular," she says. "It's become acceptable. It's okay to work out and sweat and be athletic. It's not just men who should be healthy."

She still loses to Chris Evert, however, in the popularity stakes, largely over the femininity issue. "The stigma has always been there," she says. "In '75 and '76 I was big, but not muscular - and people then thought I was a huge monster beating up innocent little girls."

She is certainly very image-conscious. "I hate it when people

say I'm big," she says. "I'm a size eight (English 10). How can they hold that against me? I'm strong, but I'm not big. Sure, I'd like to change a few things. Sometimes I wish I had smaller calves or that my muscles weren't so big so I could wear low-cut dresses. But I'm not ashamed of my body."

She is defiant about her detractors. "I don't have anything to prove to anybody. I've dealt with the pressure pretty well. You don't win the titles I've won and say she crumbled under pressure." This year she has reorganized her coaching arrangement, which floundered after the departure of Mike Estep at the start of 1987. Gone is hitting partner Randy Crawford. On board is Tim Gullikson, the right-hander of the tennis-playing twins.

Their immediate concern, of course, is to do something about her position as the world's No 2 woman tennis player. Asked her 1988 ambitions, she replies: "To be No 1. To improve everything. This year, I believe in myself." She says. "That's the big difference." She bristles, however, at the mention of Graf. "They are already giving her the Grand Slam," she says wryly. "They are so quick to write me off. Well, we'll see."

Like many other tennis players, she relishes the prospect of one day telling her grandchildren how she won Wimbledon. Navratilova will have a little more to tell than most. "I've done better than I thought I would," she says. "Twenty years ago I thought I would win Wimbledon. Once."

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WHO WOULD WIN?

To compare the champion of one generation with that of another is always imponderable. Was W.G. Grace a greater batsman than Jack Hobbs? Was Walter Hammond a greater all-rounder than Gary Sobers? The conditions of play have to be balanced.

There are those who place Suzanne Lenglen of France as the best ladies' tennis champion of all; she won the championship in five successive years between 1919 and 1923 - with a sixth victory in 1925. Her style and grace were thought incomparable.

Her successor was Helen Wills - later Mrs Helen Wills Moody - who set a ladies' singles record with her eight victories between 1927 and 1938. Now the natural question will be: who was the finer player: Wills Moody or Navratilova?

The temptation of the question, however, does not make the comparison more acceptable. Tennis has changed, grown up. Equipment has changed - the balls and the rackets in particular; there has been a change in the laws of service and foot-faulting.

The greatest, and now acceptable, change of all has been the introduction of professionalism; with its growth of prize money. Champion ladies and men have now become millionaires in their early days. In the 1920s, the prize for winning the ladies' title at



Helen Wills Moody at the height of her power

Wimbledon was a five shilling voucher from Mappin & Webb. Now it is a six-figure bounty: £148,500.

Navratilova and her contemporaries are in a financial position to invite their families and friends from abroad to watch at Wimbledon. This was never so in the days of Wills Moody. Helen Wills, at the age of 17, became American champion in

1923. The following year she came to England for the first time and lost the final to Kitty McKane - later Mrs Godfree, who tells me that Helen was very shy and no conversationalist, understandable on her first visit to England. She then decided to keep away from Wimbledon until 1927. That was the start of her dominance.

She had learnt her game on Californian hard courts. As a stylist, she was sound in her ground strokes with strength in her service and a powerful forehand. But she was mechanical with play from the baseline and a minimum of rallying. She wore opponents down. She was no runner but economical of movement.

In comparing her with Navratilova, it must be considered that the overall standard of play has increased considerably - as has general fitness. This applies particularly to the 138 ladies who are accepted at Wimbledon. Navratilova has matured since her first win in 1978. She has grown in experience and confidence. As opposed to Wills Moody, she has been very fast around the court, tremendously fit, athletic, a marvellous volleyer, and strong overhead. While Wills Moody in her day won at long range, Navratilova has taken the battle to the net, her killing ground.

Geoffrey Green

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THE TIMES

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Yours for the weekend: The Ritz is offering special deals

OUT & ABOUT

Weekend of crime

OUTINGS

ALDHAM VILLAGE OPEN DAY: All gardens in the village open to the public, stalls, music and clog dancers, plus an evening service in the parish church at 7pm. Aldham village, near Colchester, Essex. Tomorrow, Luncheon from 12.30pm, gardens open from 1.30pm-6pm.

CHELMSFORD CARNIVAL: Grand procession through town from 3pm, pageant float in Admiral's Park with display of martial arts, gymnastics and firework dogs from 4pm. Giant freewheel display at 10pm. Chelmsford, Essex. Today, Adult 40p, child 20p.

BROMLEY PAGEANT OF MOTORS: Thousands of classic cars plus old commercial and military vehicles. Adam Faith opens the pageant at 11am. Norman Park, Hayes Lane, Bromley, Kent. Tomorrow, 9.30am-5.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

PANKHURST TRUST GARDEN PARTY: Family entertainments, bring and buy and other stalls, raffles, and cream teas. The Pankhurst Trust, 80-82 Nelson St, Manchester (061) 2735673. Tomorrow from 3pm. Admission £2 includes tea.

KINGHAM-AT-HOME: Local entertainments, home-grown produce for sale and home-made food to eat in this pretty Cotswold village. Kingham, Oxford. Today, Adult £2, child £1, free to English Heritage members.

TEDDY BEAR MUSEUM: New museum celebrates every aspect of the teddy bear and has a unique collection, including some of the oldest in existence. 19 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon. Admission £1.50 (adults) and 75p (children 14 and under). Open daily 9.30am-6pm from Monday.

Judy Frosham

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 2

Dawdling through the Dordogne

With neither guidebook nor fixed itinerary, Michael Watkins found a pleasant surprise at every turn as he journeyed through a landscape strewn with truffles and boules

In travel the keyword is "chance". The best laid schemes notoriously come unstuck, leaving us stranded on an isthmus of improbability. Thus it was that a faulty gauge near Cahors led me *centre ville* in frantic search of petrol; and thus it followed, as surely as pigs root for truffles, that I scoured the nearby market for depleted ingredients of my daily lunch: St Albay cheese, Evian water, a *baguette*.

Distracted by the Cathedral of St Etienne looming above the stalls, I stretched my neck towards its lovely painted dome, emerging from a doorway opposite to where Mme Dieuzaide sold wine. She reminded me of someone I like, so I bought a bottle of *rosé*, in return for which she gave me a card: "Xavier et Laurence Dieuzaide, Castelnaud-Montstratier," it read.

At the risk of threatening this uneasy lull in the Hundred Years War, I should explain the contribution of the French Government Tourist Office to my disorientation. Months earlier I had written to its Piccadilly office requesting guidebook and brochures of the Dordogne; after a reminder, several brochures arrived three days before departure. The majority were either geographically irrelevant or of the genre promoting interest in canoeing, tent-pitching and similar exercises I'm no good at. Which is why I decided to drift, aimlessly, haphazardly, picking my way through



the truffle-strewn landscape. One leaflet, however, was germane to my cause: the one on Moissac, famed for its abbey's Romanesque cloisters. Across country, it looked about 50 miles from Cahors. So I set off, getting lost at a road sign claiming to be "Castelnaud-M". Which struck a chord.

Well, I speculated, if Monsieur turns out to be as agreeable as Madame, it will be worth a detour. He was, and I came away with a firm, dry handshake and a case of their '87 red which I am

drinking now. They produced 35,000 bottles that year, which sounds a lot but probably isn't. It has a warm taste, reminding me of a warm and brief encounter.

Turning down their drive, the sun caught the roof of the village church, a chunky, not terribly noble affair; but inside it was cool and a diminutive woman arranged *arrum lilies* before the altar. She'd pop one in, stand back a pace, waggling her head critically, as I'm sure Michelangelo did when he applied similar dedication to the Sistine Chapel. In the organ loft someone practised hesitantly, yet the sound filled the void with wonder. I saw from a plaque that Valentin Buffo had died of wounds received in the Algerian war, depriving him of the opportunity to join the other men playing *boules* on the village square beneath dusty plane trees.

There was an edifice I've always known as a *clocherie*, across the way from where windows of the Hotel des Arcades opened on to the countryside, which was domestic rather than awesome, a surprise at every turn - but a pleasant surprise, nothing too damning.

A woman from the shop downstairs showed me a clean room plus bath which could be mine for 110 francs; the restaurant next door did dinner for 50 francs. She also showed me a letter of appreciation from a Leeds

family who'd had a smashing time and planned to come back.

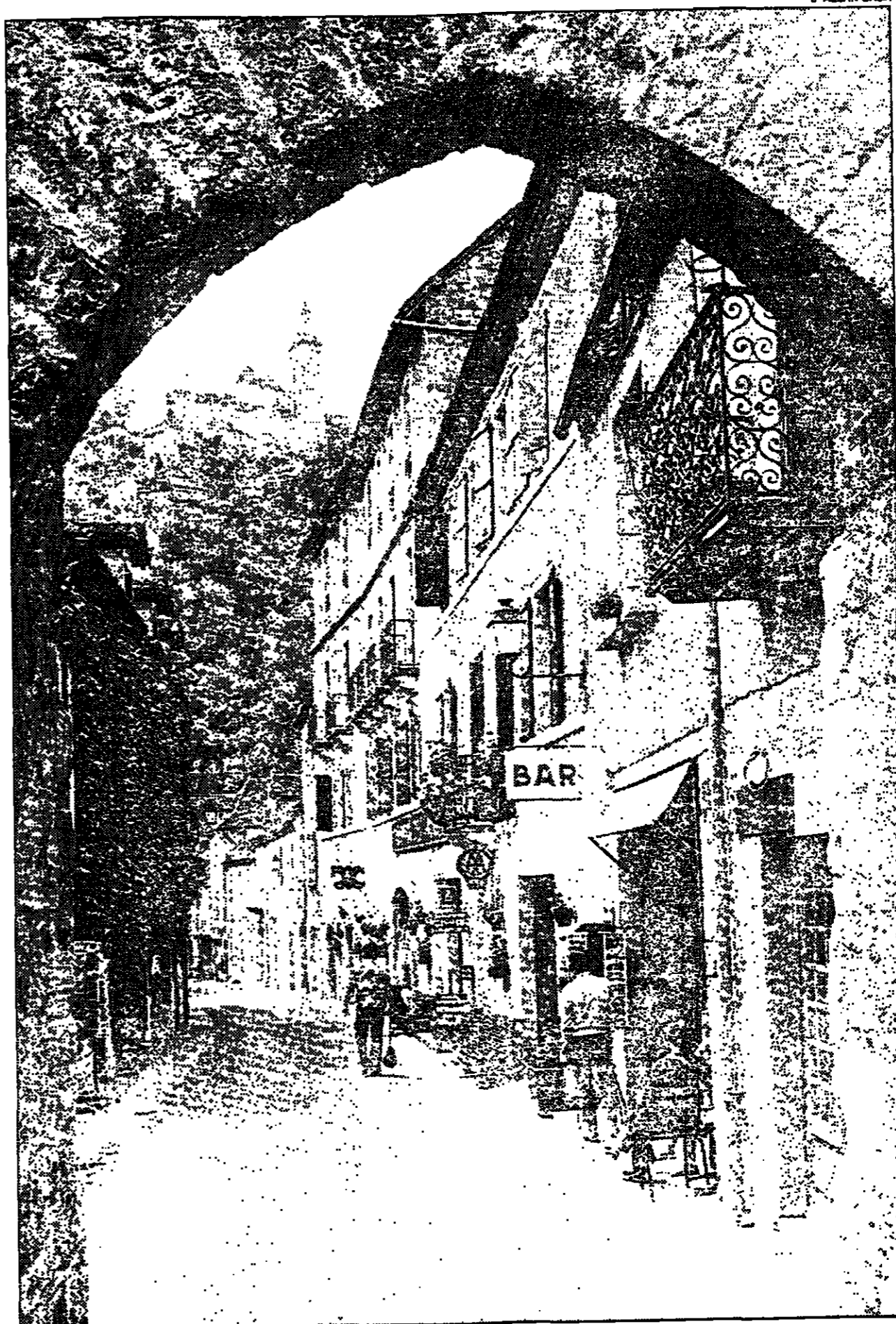
So I dawdled in Castelnaud-M. and never did make the Romanesque cloisters at Moissac; but they'll keep for another time. See what I mean about chance? And another time there'll be, for I revelled in the Dordogne, rain and all. The tourist office would look shocked at that, as if rain were a meteorological aberration; but where there's lush green scenery, there's lush wet rain, end of argument.

Without a guidebook, I did a few of the guidebook things. I'm sure the good book waxes lyrical about Périgueux; all I did was glance into the Cathedral St Front, where the 13th-century cloisters were locked and the building itself too weighty, too at odds with its setting. I went to Rocamadour because everyone goes there, finding it a medieval cliff-hanger of astonishing beauty, assembled in superimposed tiers hewn from rock-face. Its single street was arched, narrow as a puritan's smile, every other shop flogging tins of *foie gras* at about a fiver a mouthful. Standing on the chateau battlements so unsettled me that I abjured climbing the Great Staircase on my knees as pilgrims have since the Middle Ages.

At Lascaux I went underground to see wall paintings of mammoth, bison, horse and bull 17,000 years old; yet, perversely no doubt, felt rather let down that these were copies. Only five visitors daily, by official application taking up to a year to process, may examine the originals, so sensitive are they to damaging human emanations. I expect it's something in our diet.

There were compensating delights, unscheduled and unofficial: Martel en Query (its coats-of-arms three truffles reclining beneath a coronet), with its timbered market place; boasting, very correctly, of its *reposant et vivifiant climat* to say nothing of its *truffe privilege*. And I'll bet that the Château de Rochechouart, 24 miles west of Limoges, doesn't feature hugely in the guidebooks. The barley-sugar columns in the cloisters were a rare joy, so too the legend - perpetuated in a wall carving of exquisite pathos - of a jealous nobleman who condemned his wife to a living death in the dungeons, until a brave hearted lion... well, it would be rotten to spoil the ending for you.

I put up very grandly at châteaux, de Puy Robert one night, de Monviel another, de Nieuil on yet another, in huge rooms overlooking moats and Gallic Camelots, where brigades of chefs slaved relentlessly for my delectation, basking in the glory of my praise. I ate truffles with this and truffles with that; and if I never consume another truffle, it will be soon enough. But that is strictly *enure nous*.



A medieval cliff-hanger in the Dordogne: Rocamadour's single street is arched and narrow as a puritan's smile



At the heart of truffle country: Périgueux and its cathedral, at odds with its setting

LANDSCAPE ONLY

TRAVEL NOTES

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LIZ MACDONALD
For a free copy of this original and fascinating book on the Paris Méridien peering the very history of France, enclose with our brochure in individual envelope holidays in that beautiful city.
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Sailing overnight with Brittany Ferries (departs 9pm, arrives 6am) from Portsmouth to St Malo, five nights half board at Relais et Châteaux prestigious hotels (plus two nights' cabin accommodation aboard the ferry - including the

car) came to £206 for two people. Rates vary seasonally from £584 to £852 in summer. For booking applications, contact Brittany Ferries, The Brittany Centre, Wharf Road, Portsmouth PO2 8RU (tel: 0705 827701).

The journey described covered 1,146 miles in France. The French Government Tourist Office, at 178 Piccadilly, London W1 (tel 01-493 5174), will provide further information on the Dordogne region.

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THE TIMES COOK

Serving up Wimbledon winners

Frances Bissell has some simple suggestions for tennis enthusiasts

What to do when you don't have time to cook an elaborate meal for your guests? One answer is to buy a good spread of the best ingredients to play a strong supporting role to whatever you do have time to prepare. I'm not suggesting lobsters and caviar but simply the best bread you can find, a large piece of good farmhouse cheese and ripe, unblemished fruit.

At this time of year with peaches, apricots, nectarines and plums all looking so good, you cannot go far wrong ending the meal with a fruit plate. If you want to serve fruit salad but do not have the time, encourage your guests to make up their own. A large bowl of cream, yoghurt or crème fraîche, together with a pot of honey, some liqueurs, lemons and sharp knives can be placed on the table.

On the same principle, do-it-yourself potato salad is a good idea. You need a large bowl of freshly cooked new potatoes, bowls of mayonnaise, sour cream, crisply cooked crumbled bacon, chopped walnuts, chopped onions, a bundle of chives, bottles of oils and whatever you think would go well with the potatoes. They should be freshly cooked, which is best done by putting them in boiling salted water and served while still warm in their skins. One do-it-yourself dish is fun, two would give your guests the wrong idea.

The main course can be dealt with in several ways. A fine ham or smoked chicken to be sliced and

served cold will give you time to make something else. Or choose something that will benefit from an overnight marinade and only needs quick cooking under the grill, such as lamb chops, spicy sausages or chicken breasts.

A whole chicken or salmon trout makes a fine centrepiece. Cooking either is done by poaching them in a court bouillon and then letting them cool in their own juices. You can put it on before the men's final begins and there will be a moist, succulent fish or chicken ready at the end of it.

To poach the salmon trout, put it in a fish kettle covered with lightly salted water or court bouillon, bring it slowly to just simmering, simmer for three minutes, turn off the heat, cover it, and let it cool until required. It will continue to cook while the water is very hot; that is why it must not simmer for more than three minutes.

The same method can be used for cooking chicken but use a round deep pot and simmer the chicken gently for 15 minutes from when the water starts to boil.

A platter of raw vegetables makes an appetizing, colourful starter, especially when served with a delicious sauce. If time is short, simply put a basket of scrubbed and trimmed vegetables on the table: young tender carrots, peas, mangetouts, beans, radishes, broccoli and sprouts will need little else in the way of preparation. Cucumbers can be cut into chunks



DIANA LEADBETTER

and then strips. Tomatoes can be served as they are.

Home-made garlic mayonnaise is the best possible dip for crudites, but this herb cream is a close second. Use whatever you can find in the way of soft fresh green herbs such as chervil, pars-

ley, basil, tarragon, watercress, as opposed to the more pungent, oily herbs such as thyme and rosemary. Strip the leaves from the stalks. Herb cream (Serves 10 to 12) 1 1/2oz/40g fresh herbs, leaf only

4 roughly chopped spring onions
2 cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon freshly grated ginger
OR pinch powdered ginger
10oz/280g tofu (bean curd, available from oriental shops)
seasoning to taste

Blanch the herbs by putting them in a sieve or colander and pouring boiling water over them. This brightens and softens them without cooking out their fresh flavour. Put in the blender, and process the rest of the ingredients until you have a smooth, creamy mass. This herb cream is also good with cold fish and poultry dishes and goes particularly well with the lamb recipe.

If you only have time to cook one dish in advance, ratatouille is the thing to do. The flavours in this rich Provençal vegetable stew blend and develop beautifully when allowed to stand for several hours.

Ratatouille
(Serves 8 to 10)
1lb/455g aubergine
1lb/455g courgettes
1lb/455g tomatoes
1 large green pepper
1 large red pepper
1 onion
fresh garlic to taste
1 tablespoon shredded basil
1/2 tablespoon thyme
1/4 pint/70ml olive oil
freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons Pernod (optional)

Cut the aubergine and courgettes into chunks or slices. Sprinkle with salt and let it discharge for an hour. Rinse and dry them well. Meanwhile, skin, de-seed and roughly chop the tomatoes into chunks. Slice the peppers or cut into squares. Slice the onion thinly. Crush the garlic with salt.

Heat the olive oil in a casserole, about three tablespoons to begin

with, although you may need to add more later. Stir in all the vegetables, on a fairly high heat, until well coated with oil. Add the garlic, basil, thyme, pepper and Pernod (if using). Half cover with a lid and cook gently until all the vegetables are tender but not breaking up into a watery purée. This looks good served in an earthenware dish, sprinkled with a little more fresh basil or flat-leaf parsley.

Grilled marinated lamb cutlets
(Serves 8)

Chops cut from the thoroughly trimmed and chined best end of lamb are best for this recipe. They are more expensive but will save you time, for as much fat as possible should be removed. You will need two or three chops each.

For the marinade:
1 tablespoon mustard
4 cloves garlic, crushed
4 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon fortified wine
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tsp tomato purée or ketchup
2 tsp soft brown sugar or honey
freshly ground black pepper
16 or 24 best end cutlets
several sprigs rosemary or thyme

Blend the ingredients until smooth. Brush the marinade over the chops, and lay them in a dish with the sprigs of herbs. Cover and refrigerate overnight. When ready to cook, bring the chops to room temperature, heat the grill and shake any surplus marinade from the chops. Grill for 2-4 minutes on each side, depending on thickness and how well done you like lamb. Serve hot, warm or cold.

EATING OUT

A total experience for a rare appetite

I may be the last person left who has not been to California but I can still sniff a Total Experience when it's shoved right in front of my face — not only sniff it but feel its heat, get visually mugged by it, hear it, taste it. It's not for nothing that taste comes last. This Total Experience is called Benihana and is to be found at Swiss Cottage; it is also to be found in a dozen or so cities across the world including, of course, Los Angeles — the thing about Total Experiences is that they are hermetic, independent of their environs and can thus be propagated anywhere, like plants transported in artificial ecospheres.

This particular plant has Japanese as well as Californian roots but that's a bit like saying an airport lounge has a Canadian feel because it's veneered in maple: Benihana, like any such lounge, makes up its own rules, observes a decorative, and quasi-theatrical code of its own devising — and a culinary code too. It's not for nothing that culinary comes last.

Benihana is appropriately housed, in an ex-cen-on-the-eye post-modern block. You can tell that it's post-modern because it is designed to appeal to children of six: equally you can tell that the adjacent Library and Swimming Pool is modern because its design appeals to no one (vandal, responsible: the late Sir Basil Spence).

Benihana's bar, which is the first thing you come to after the neon legend on the lobby wall, is "double height", airy and spectacularly confused: here a bit of industrial-looking metal, there a deep armchair and out there is a garden with tent-like parasols. The waiter whom I asked to serve us in the garden was unkeen on the idea — this for reasons that became apparent later.

As soon as we'd been served our drinks we were asked by a waitress to go down to the dining room. We declined. From within the waiters glared at us. The point of this was that the peculiar seating method of the dining room — which is occasioned by the peculiar cooking practice — demands that a table be filled before cooking can commence. The diners sit at bars of a sort, and these bars are built around hot plates at which the chefs perform. When you enter the dining room — having just descended a staircase with a waterfall beside it — you are faced with a scene reminiscent of some advanced cookery demonstration where pupils eagerly crowd about the master at his massive hob.

If you haven't arrived in a party you'll be seated in close proximity to your neighbour, which is doubtless a further fact of the Total Experience. It's small wonder that "your hostess for the evening, Mary", a girl with a persistent smile and a habit of disappearing when you're on the point of asking for something, doesn't introduce everyone at the table to each other.

Gimmicks are not to the gourmet's taste, writes

Jonathan Meades

FRANCIS MOSLEY



DEALS BY APPOINTMENT

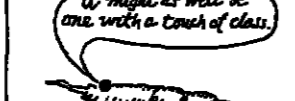
FR...



one is going to end up in court...



It might as well be one such a touch of class



...

Your chef, a man whose lapel tells the world that he is Suzuki, introduces himself as Toyota: this may be a joke. He's dressed in a red toque and he wears a holster with a couple of knives in it. His performance is equal parts cutting, frying, grunting, sprinkling: if your taste in performance art runs to doggedly representational renditions of what it's like to be a nimble short-order cook, then Suzuki (for Toyota) is your man. Your involvement will be, as they say, Total. There's no escape: my glasses (and presumably my clothes) were, by the end of the evening covered in a film of frying fat: I guess that anyone meeting me in the street after would have thought that I'd been moonlighting as a batter operator in a chippy.

Suzuki and his colleagues take the raw materials that they are to cook out of expanded polystyrene trays, a material to which the ingredients are evidently pervious — for all the juggling and ersatz ritual the food is pretty ordinary: dreary chicken yakitori; lethal squid on skewers which is impossible to discern beneath a coating of batter; a truly horrible salad; salmon cooked as asked (rare) but nonetheless flavourless; an onion soup that's no more than adequate.

Still, the food is only part of the point: the true appeal here is towards the sated, mock-infantile and ultimately dec-

adent taste for gimmicky triumph. Benihana is as facetiously attractive and as ultimately frustrating as anything else which manifests the vanquishment of subject by "style". Two will pay about £50 without wine but with a very modest amount of beer and aperitifs.

Deals possesses a gimmick of a different variety. Or, rather, two gimmicks — my lords Linley and Litchfield. The noble carpenter and joiner and the noble soft-porn photographer and mackintosh salesman have gone into business with a congenial restaurateur called Eddie Lim to provide Chelsea Harbour with the sort of place which is just the ticket if your idea of an evening out is an evening when you catch sight of a noble carpenter and joiner or a noble soft-porn photographer and mackintosh salesman.

The evening I was there only the former was to be espied, and not till pretty late on — but no doubt this measured scarcity is better for business than if he were there all day long.

Chelsea Harbour is a depressing cluster of new and mostly nasty buildings which are designed in all the fashionable styles. Deals is approached through this, at least it will be when the entrance to the atrium is finished. At the moment it is approached through an underground car park. And to get to the car park you have to cross about half a mile of building site.

It is some gauge of the twin gimmicks' drawing power that so many people are prepared to put up with so much to seek them out. They are also prepared, whether they know it or not, to put up with a view of a railway track, and no ordinary railway track — the iron horses which ply past the restaurant pull, among other loads, nuclear waste.

The restaurant's interior shows what happens when someone tries to amend the Wild West formula of a thousand hamburger houses by referring to the East Coast and specifically to Andrew Wyeth, prints of whose work are hung on the light wood (deal?) tongue and groove. What happens is a mishmash — like Chelsea Harbour itself and like the menu which is part Thai, part Japanese.

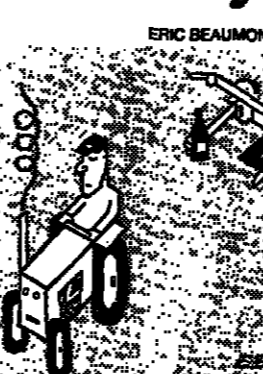
Some dishes are quite good — chicken satay, a prawn curry flavoured with basil and chilli, spring rolls filled with Pacific prawns. The service is willing, and the place is certainly animated. I guess that it's not meant to be taken too seriously. For a full meal two will pay about £60 but if you want merely to spot a train or a lord you can get away with far less.

BENIHANA, 100 Avenue Road London NW3 (01-586 7118/9508) Mon to Sat 5.30-11.30pm, Sun noon-3pm and 7-11.30pm

DEALS, Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 (01-352 5887) Mon to Sat noon-3pm and 6.30-10.30pm

DRINK

A taste of the country



ERIC BEAUMONT

berries. On the palate it is, however, as English as it can be: a pleasant, light, sweet, spritzy mouthful that would be good with strawberries. At £4.79, it is not exactly a bargain but for patriots it is just the thing to tuck into their hampers for Wimbledon and Glydebourne.

With the Champagne and sparkling wine season now in full swing I am, like everyone else, on the lookout for good sparkling wines that can offer some of Champagne's finesse

at a fraction of the price. I have always maintained that, if you are trying to keep costs down, it is much safer to serve a first-class sparkling wine than a cut-price Champagne.

The latest sparkler I have found that fits this category is Seaview Brat or Seaview Grand Cruvé (also stocked by Oddbins), this premium vintage fizz is an extraordinarily good alternative to Champagne and might even be mistaken for the real thing. Its handsome golden colour indicates bottle age, as does its stylish, buttery, biscuity scent and a full-flavoured biscuity palate that is refreshing on the tongue. Its invigorating lemon acidity saves it from being flabby (a common hot-country sparkling wine fault). An ideal July sparkler, and excellent value. But be warned: it is selling fast and will not be available again until December.

Although I do not like either the straight non-vintage Seaview Brat or Seaview Grand Cruvé (also stocked by Oddbins), this premium vintage fizz is an extraordinarily good alternative to Champagne and might even be mistaken for the real thing. Its handsome golden colour indicates bottle age, as does its stylish, buttery, biscuity scent and a full-flavoured biscuity palate that is refreshing on the tongue. Its invigorating lemon acidity saves it from being flabby (a common hot-country sparkling wine fault). An ideal July sparkler, and excellent value. But be warned: it is selling fast and will not be available again until December.

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Jane MacQuitty

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wine. Thence you shall be branded "Reserve" and transported to Oddbins. There, your price will be tortured for three days, until you drop from £2.69 to £2.25. "Right, officer. Lock 'em up."

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THE ARTS

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Floundering foundation

The work of the Tate Foundation, the Tate Gallery's independently-run charity, has been suspended following the sudden resignation of its director, Alexander "Sandy" Gilmour.

Meal ticket?

Organizers are choosing to take literally a critic's comment that the London International Festival of Theatre is the theatrical equivalent to having the finest international restaurants together in one place.

Is there no end to the delights at the Royal Academy? Even the telephone box in its courtyard repays a closer look.

Futures market

Sir William Rees-Mogg's enthusiasm for Anthony Trollope last year led to the foundation of the Trollope Society, with the single aim of publishing all 48 of the writer's novels in a single edition.



The society's 1,700 members (they include Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Lord Young of Grafham and Alan Beith) are being offered the full set for just £895 now.

Porsche country

Constable's London home could become a museum. The Wells and Campden Charity, freeholders of 40 Well Walk, Hampstead, need to realize their asset, which they currently rent out.

Andrew Billen

CINEMA: Charles Bremner reports from New York the runaway success of Who Framed Roger Rabbit, starring Bob Hoskins and cartoon animals; Sheridan Morley interviews Elaine Stritch, just opened in September, and Clare Kitson raises the curtain on the NFT season of Soviet films taken off the shelf at last

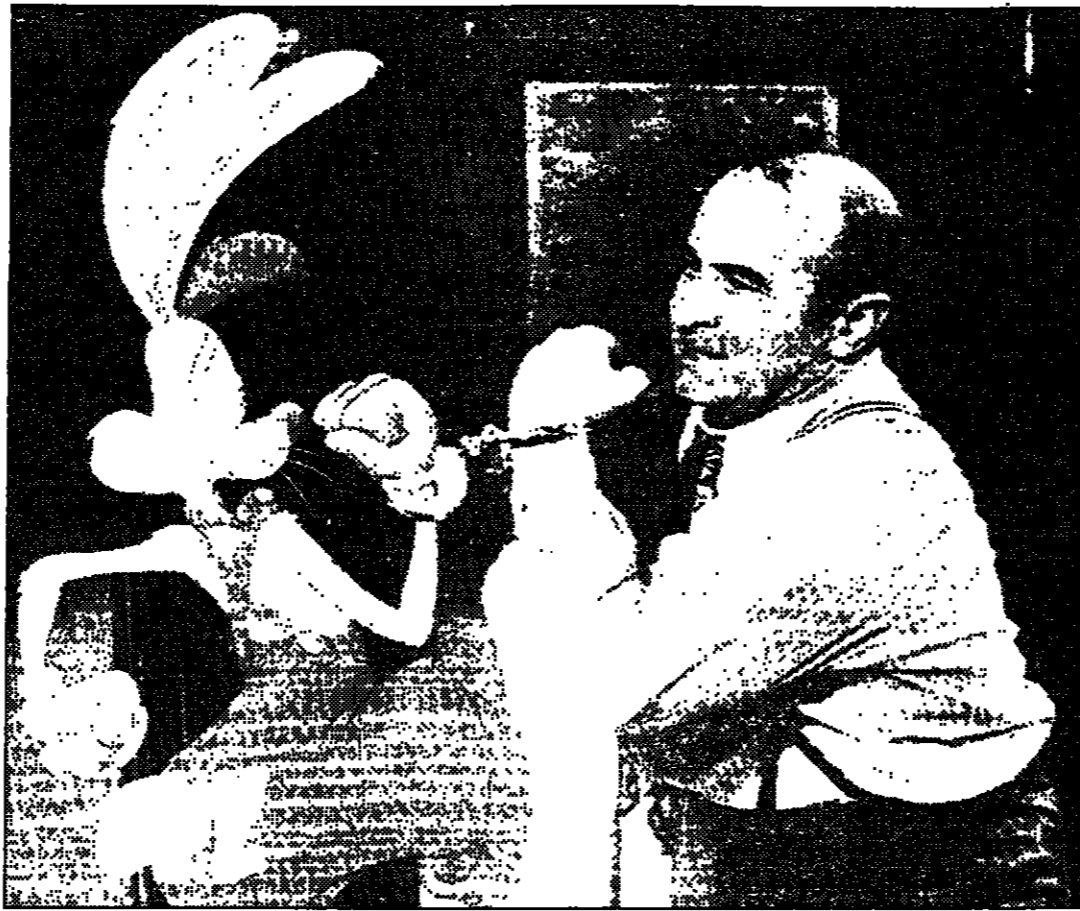
Run rabbit, run rabbit

Rarely does a film break box office records in its opening week at the same time as sending America's heavyweight film critics reaching for their superlatives.

"Landmark", "monumental", "brilliant", "stunning", "historic", "complex and beautiful work of art" are the sort of praise being lavished on Who Framed Roger Rabbit.

After opening last week Rabbit, released by Disney's adult division Touchstone, earned a record \$15 million in five days and has become the number one draw in America.

Rabbit's conceit - mixing animation with real people - had of course been tried before; it worked moderately for Gene Kelly in Anchors Aweigh and for Mary Poppins.



Blockbuster bunny: co-stars Roger Rabbit and Bob Hoskins locked in a record-breaking screen alliance

But the film's biggest exploit lies in the merging of two worlds - the imaginary Hollywood of the 1947 film noir, and the cartoon realm of the Looney Tunes and Disney animals who live by creative violence and near-disaster.

Each other and walk off cliffs and hang in space. To add realism, the old heroes of the Disney and Warner Bros stable are all there, including Bugs Bunny, Mickey Mouse, Porky Pig, Betty Boop, Goofy and Dumbo.

Eddie Valiant, the boozy, burnt-out Sam Spade private eye who is persuaded by Roger to save him when he is suspected of murdering Jessica's lover.

A Broadway babe reborn

At 62, one of the last of the great Broadway babes is starting out on a new career in art movies: Elaine Stritch is to be found alongside Mia Farrow, Denholm Elliott and Dianne Wiest in Woody Allen's September, which opened this week.

For Stritch, the cinema has always until now been a somewhat minor diversion: "My movie career has been what you might call laughable: I started out in Hollywood in 1957 with one called The Scarlet Hour, so straightaway you know you're in trouble, right?"

Looking and sounding in remarkably good shape for someone who, over the last decade, has lost a husband and both parents, and is only just winning a long battle against diabetes.

"I lived there for years with the only husband I ever had, John Bay, and then we decided to go back to America and just after we bought a big old house near Helen Hayes in Nyack, John died of a tumour on the brain.

"It's good to get back to New York and some film and television work; in Nyack I found, to my horror, that I was starting to do retirement things like reading books and going for long walks, whereas, in the city, I'm just another actress looking for a job.



Behaving herself: Elaine Stritch

"You want to know what I'm doing next? I'm doing Cocoon 2, you know, the one about the very old people who get younger?"

"I like a lot of sarcasm. I also like musicals, and there have been precious few of those around lately, though Charles Strouse is now writing one for me based on the Damon Runyon Pocket Full of Miracles. I only hope I like it."

Soviet films see the light

Andrei Smirnov today inhabits a large and elegant Moscow office. As acting First Secretary of the Union of Film-Makers of the USSR he is one of the most powerful men in the Soviet cinema, although he has not himself made a film for 10 years.

Smirnov, lanky and loud-checked, is now prepared to talk about the film that started his problems. Called, significantly, The Beginning of an Unknown Era, it was begun in an earlier period of liberalization, the early Sixties, when there was euphoric anticipation of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Revolution.

The film was to be a collection of warts-and-all episodes about the Revolution, from stories by the best Soviet writers. The segments were offered to the youngest and brightest new directors. They included Elem Klimov who, after a career fraught with difficulties, was subsequently to be the key figure in the new perestroika of the cinema.

Only three of the intended five segments were completed before the atmosphere changed and the project was halted. Of those, two only were preserved, both thanks to the cunning of the directors. After 20 years on the shelf, these can be seen tonight at the National Film Theatre, in a season of unscheduled Soviet films that continues through July.

Shepitzko's episode is based on a Platonov story about a drought in a distant rural area in 1921, but

conventions and the knowing gags that give the film its charm and edge. Take, for instance the sinister Ink and Paint Club, where the ludicrously sexy Jessica excites her human audience, who are served by black penguins in dinner jackets.

To tell more would spoil the fun, but suffice it to mention a brilliant opening sequence, an impossibly vulgar and violent golden age fantasy that shudders to a halt when a human director calls "Cut" and walks into the three-dimensional cartoon set.

Hoskins has been appearing on television shows around the country for the past week, explaining how he managed to act a whole film with an invisible co-star and a hoard of other characters and special effects painted by hand, frame by frame, after the action was shot.

Guts galore

In The Flying Doctors (BBC1), a new Australian drama series with production values so high that most of it is still in the air, old Ted had gut-ache. This was hardly surprising since Ted had been scraping by on the odd bottle of beer or six since his wife left him, while humping logs around the outback.

TELEVISION

gutless bloody wonder," he called him, a turn of phrase which seemed mean in the circumstances. Meanwhile, enter the new doc, Chris Randall, a See Ellen figure with a flashy smile, who is torn by moments of self-doubt at being rejected by the locals.

The last in the current series of Dispatches (Channel 4), The Hashish Connection, was a powerful and revealing report from Lebanon which took Chris Wenner (formerly of Blue Peter) some two years and a great deal of personal risk to film. It demonstrated how completely the economy of the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon depends on the international drugs trade.

Intervention by police and foreign agents is virtually impossible because of the state of siege and carnage in Lebanon; this programme, because it took the trouble to get to know dealers and makers, probably reveals more than governments wish to be known.

William Holmes

Teen screams

ROCK

Bros Hammersmith Odeon

Outside the hall there was the biggest police presence since L.L. Cool J and Public Enemy appeared there. Inside were thousands of teenage and pre-teenage girls who screamed lustily at every mention of Bros's name by the DJ, Mick Brown.

The objects of this excitement finally appeared, breaking through a fake wall to stand resplendent at the front of the stage for about 90 seconds, while wave upon wave of shrieking treble noise rolled in from the stalls.

The trio of 19-year-olds, which comprises the identical twins Matt and Luke Goss and their former schoolfriend Craig Logan, enjoyed its first hit as recently as last January. Two more hit singles, including the current No 1, "I Owe You Nothing", and a No-2 album followed, but so far they have received more attention from the tabloid daily newspapers than from the music press.

Yet musically this was a surprisingly adept presentation. Luke Goss managed his impressive-looking drum kit capably enough, while Logan's bass playing was rather good. Matt Goss sang in a powerful though brittle voice which sounded at times as if it had not quite broken. The bulk of the music was actually performed by session players, and together they worked their way through the whole of their album and one new song, "Mad In Love".

The turnover of this kind of act has become very rapid, with Curiosity Killed The Cat and A-Ha both rising and falling from the top of the greasy pole of pop in little more than a year each. If they can stay the course, Bros look like making the most convincing challenge to Wet Wet Wet's current pre-eminence, but the chances of long-term survival may be counted as slim.

David Sinclair

EXCLUSIVE YARNS the full story. A hilarious new comedy. COMEDY THEATRE. SUZIE BLAKE, BRIAN DEACON, PAM FERRIS, COLETTE GLEESON, ROBERT HOWIE, LESLEY JOSEPH, BARRY MARTIN, DYFED THOMAS.

"Spectacularly beautiful... UNMISSABLE". [RICHARD EYRE'S] "bold, arresting production". "MIRANDA RICHARDSON is perfect". "GEORGE HARRIS... mesmerising... an evening of high intensity and high achievement". "Powerfully imagined production". THE CHANGELING. NATIONAL NI THEATRE. LYTTLETON: Today 2.15 & 7.45, Mon 7.45, Then July 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. MIDWEEK MATS, ALL SEATS £5.

CHESS

Young masters of the board

ALAN WELLER

St Paul's looks likely to dominate the finals of The Times Schools Chess Championship, which begin on Thursday. Kate Finch reports

It is early afternoon at St Paul's in south-west London, and the two best chess players in the school are engaged in a friendly game. Under questioning from a Times reporter, they scarcely glance up from the board; gifted young chess players tend to acquire an arrogance about their skill which precludes discussion of the game with outsiders.

than for anything else," Harvey says. Although St Paul's provides an atmosphere in which good chess players will flourish, it has little part in creating them. Chess playing is a skill which must be acquired early. The potential star is likely to be well established on the junior circuit by the age of 11.



"Completely fascinated by chess": Ali Mortazavi, aged 17, one of the senior members of the St Paul's team, ponders a manoeuvre

This week's game in the recent draw by Jon Speelman, St Paul's School's best-known chess alumnus, with the reigning world champion, Gary Kasparov.

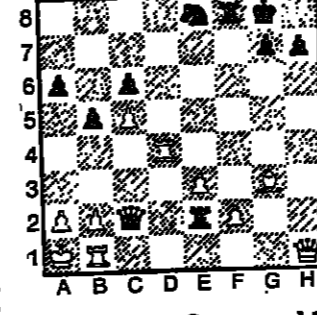
Battle with the champion

that the black position is full of resources. White: Gary Kasparov; Black: Jon Speelman. Old Indian Defence, Belfort World Cup, June 1988.

Black has been forced to weaken his pawn structure but in compensation he gains active play on the 'f' file, of which he makes good use in the battle to come.

The climax of the game. Speelman's forces have invaded the Champion's camp and driven White's pieces to some outlandish squares, such as the White Queen on h1. Now Speelman decides to pick off some of the exposed White

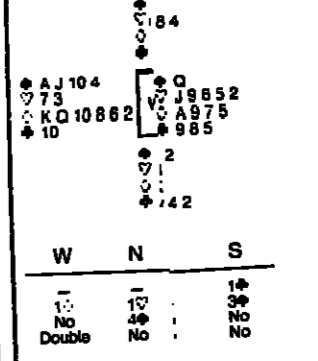
Raymond Keene



BUDGE

Pling thealse cal to elct

Terence Re at his commanding b Bridge for Ambitious s (Gollanz paperback, bringing to life an exceclection of hands in hirably economic style.



Reese regardrth's four spade bid as tioneable. Certainly fourbs would have been moudent. West startwih two rounds of diads. South ruffed the second crossed to dummy by taking the K with the A order to play a spade ards the K. When Eastributed the South,rvous of finding West with A J 10 4, declined to covdow West craftily played th0. "Not so bad as it th have been," thoughtout to himself. East plid a club, which South wro dummy. But when Southplayed a spade, the roof fin. West won, cashed theade Ace and continued forcing game. South coulonly make two more tricks.

REVIEW

Ideas on the tourist trail

If you have the luck to go Thailand, the usual procedure is to stay in Bangkok for a few days and then head to the northern town of Chiang Mai and the hills beyond. Almost every visitor is then taken on a bus to see the opium villages of the "golden triangle", where a sulky old man is woken up and ordered to smoke a pipe for the benefit of the goggling tourists.

NEW THRILLERS

Dragonfire, by Andrew Kaplan (Arrow, £2.95); China White, by Tony Kenrick (Coronet, £2.95); Sins of Commission, by Harold L. Klawans (Headline, £2.95); Survival Game, by Philip Kerrigan (Grafton, £2.95); A Kind of Sleep, by Chris Ould (Grafton, £2.95)

such as Huntington's Chorea or Hodgkin's Disease. In the end, Richardson's investigations are too urbane and didactic to create the advertised atmosphere of "intensive fear". While some thrillers succeed because of the author's mastery of detail, some can get along very well with one good idea. Survival Game swoops on the new vogue for paramilitary outdoor games. Boardroom rivalries turn into carnage as a group of yuppies with spat guns begin a survival game on a remote Scottish island. They are unaware that they have been joined by a deranged Falklands veteran with a Kalashnikov. After that is plain sailing for the author, he remorselessly jacks up the tension until the appallingly savage climax.



Boris Johnson

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: FICTION A Game for the Living, by Patricia Highsmith (Penguin, £2.95) Wife found raped and murdered in her lover's studio in Mexico City opens the door on a miasma of sexual guilt and jealousy, and existentialist angst. Further Cuttings from Cruikshank Lawn, by Flann O'Brien (Grafton, £5.95) Hilarious snippets from the great 'Myias na Gopaleen' in the Irish Times between 1947 and 1957. Song of the Silent Snow, by Hubert Selby Jr. (Penguin, £3.95) Short stories of adventurous prose and fierce poetry about the rough side of life, with a humane infracraniohphile passion for all sorts of sad humans. NON-FICTION The Inquiring Eye, edited by Ferdinand Mount (Penguin, £9.95) Selected journalism by David Watt, the outstanding political journalist of our generation, whose cool, witty, agnostic analysis is sorely missed. Hard Times, by Studs Terkel (Pantheon, £4.95) Oral history of the Great Depression, capturing its lingo, its mood, its tragic and comic stories, in the authentic voice of many-headed, multi-voiced America. Bartok, by Paul Griffiths (Dent, £5.95) Lucid and lively introduction to Bartok's career and development, with photographs and musical examples, illuminating for musicians and general readers.

Playing in six hets you receive a trump let. How would you proceed? With the red suits breaking 2, it is easy to count 12 trick not so easy to make 12. The problem is to keep control while you establish four diamond tricks and take a spade ruff in dummy. If you take your ruff before developing the diamonds, the defence will later be able to cash a spade. If you tackle the diamonds first, you will either lose trump control or run into an adverse ruff. The solution, as Reese points out, is to duck a diamond a trick two! Very neat. Jeremy Flint Simon & Schuster has reprinted the late Victor Mollo's 1 Challenge You (paperback, £3.95). By combining instruction with a series of cleverly constructed quizzes Mollo ensures that the reader will improve his game.

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, July 7. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, July 9.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1605

A crossword puzzle grid with clues for both across and down. The clues include words like 'Lavish', 'Bargain shopping periods', 'Rule of conduct', 'Light cake', 'Lewd', 'Prepare for publication', 'Items list', 'Tambics', 'Joking language', 'Air letter', 'New Test "Father"', 'Disperse', 'At sea', 'Donkey', 'Light brown', 'Ornamental cord', 'Moth, butterfly expert', 'Patsy formality', 'Makes happy', 'Splishy noise', 'Allow', 'Scapula', 'Pretender to Spanish throne', 'Pompostous language', 'Pass on', 'Church bench'.

GARDENING

Flowers of summer

It is on those days when the sun blazes that I really admire geraniums (as we habitually call the most domestic of the Geraniaceae family, though botanically they are pelargoniums). The strong colours and that fierce, pungent scent of the leaves go with hot, dry summer days. They grow wild in southern Africa, where 250 species have been recorded. We have been growing and breeding geraniums for three centuries, and most popular sorts (the zonal pelargoniums and the ivy-leaved pelargoniums) look marvellous in pots, tubs and hanging baskets. It would be a sad summer without them. I prefer unfussy leaves to set off the brilliant flowers, and a plant which makes a good shape, whether upright or trailing. Even the plainer foliage goes across the spectrum of greens from glossy fresh spring shades through to softly hairy dark green, marked in the ivy-leaved kinds with the characteristic horseshoe zone. Geraniums are invaluable for brightening fading pots and tubs at this time of year. I have a sink whose main early summer feature is a white waterfall of candytuft, to which at midsummer I add two or three Stadt Bern geraniums. The hard, bright, eye-catching scarlet flowers of this variety set against the glossy

Francesca Greenoak with some tips on making the most of your geraniums. They are growing and flowering profusely, geraniums should be fed at each watering with a half-strength liquid feed with a high potash content. They can be kept through the winter fairly easily on a low water ration in a well-lit place at a temperature of about 40°F. Larger plants which have been pruned back or small plants grown from cuttings this year are easiest to keep through the winter. (Autumn-pruned plants are subject to botrytis, so don't use this method if you are keeping a number of plants close together.) Nearly all varieties propagate easily from cuttings. July is the ideal time. With a very sharp knife, cut a stem just above a leaf node (one of the little elbows on the stem), trim the cutting to just below a node, removing leaves and the green ear-like scales (stipules) from the stem except for the topmost two or three leaves. The cuttings will begin rooting after about a fortnight in a moist mixture of equal parts seed/cuttings compost and sand in shade for the first few days, thereafter in a light but not sunny place. Cuttings from ivy-leaved geraniums may also be made by breaking the stem at a node and popping it into the growing medium without any further trimming.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Cut the dead heads from roses to keep the blooms coming (except those with attractive hips). Make sure your greenhouse or conservatory is well-ventilated, the plants adequately watered and shaded if necessary. Do any last-minute staking of lilies, delphiniums and other large plants before they flop and become unshapely. Sow Chinese cabbage for an autumn crop. Continue planting out tender flowering plants such as dahlias and fuchsias.

Advertisement for Westwood Cuts A Big Garden Down To Size - Fast! featuring Agriframes Fruit Cages and Wind Problems solutions. Includes contact information for Westwood Tractors and a coupon for a free brochure.

THE WEEK AHEAD



GALLEYS SYMPHONIC: Jack Smith (above) began...



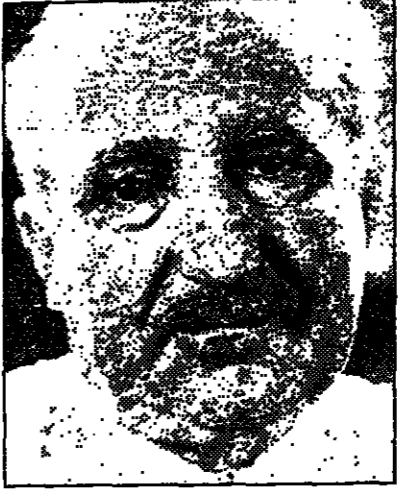
BOOKS BOMBAY LUCK: Anita Desai's Bombay...



OPERA STILL THE DON: Thomas Allen is one of the stable elements...



ROCK DOWN MEXICO WAY: Cesar Rosas supplied the trilling guitar parts...



FILM MANON'S SOURCE: The great Raimu (above) can be seen again...



CONCERTS BIG MAN: Sir Charles Mackerras conducts the London Symphony Orchestra...

THEATRE DOWNFALL: Joy Morton play about violent life. Lindsay Posner directs...

MUNRO MUSIC: Ian Munro plays Beethoven's Sonata Op. 7. Schubert's 'Wanderer' Fantasy...

GAMES OF '48: Fanny Blankers-Koen, Emil Zatopek and other stars recall the first post-war Olympic Games...

PHOTOGRAPHY CHILDREN IN FOCUS: Photographs of and by children from 13 European countries...

EXCELLENT series on British institutions. Radio 4, Wed, 10-10.47am. DEFINITELY DUNN: Clive Dunn reminisces on 50 years in showbusiness...

BOOKINGS FIRST CHANCE McEwan's Edinburgh International Jazz Festival: Festival's 10th anniversary...

EXCLUSIVE INS: Pam Ferris, Susie Blake, Jette Gleason, Lesley Josephian Deacon...

JARVLISC: Brahms's Symphony No. 2 and Schumann's Overture, Scherzo and Finale...

LUCIAN FREUD: A major retrospective of paintings. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh...

AL GREEN: Minister at the Full Tabernacle Church in Memphis and central soul legend. Fri, Hammersmith Odeon...

NETHERLANDS DANCE THEATRE: Very young dancers come to Glasgow in a strong repertoire...

CATHEDRAL CLASSICS: London Festival Orchestra finishes its summer festival of music...

CONCERTS PREVIN/RPO: André Previn conducts the RPO in Debussy's Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune...

MAHLER MAGIC HORN: Bruckner's Symphony No 7 and Mahler's Das Knaben Wunderhorn are heard from the Philharmonia Orchestra...

WORD-WATCHING BRUSTLE: To bustle about making a resulting noise...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS SATURDAY BBC1 WALES: 6.10pm-6.15 Sports News...

THE PHARISEE: Sylvia Syms and Rupert Graves star in Francois Mauriac's story of an unbending moral woman...

SUNDAY BBC1 WALES: 12.30pm-12.58pm News and Weather...

A gentleman of the stage

When Rex Harrison returns to the stage next week in Barrie's The Admirable Crichton...



A noble at the bidding of his butler: Rex Harrison as the Earl of Loam in The Admirable Crichton

very few actors will be able to look back on a longer working life. He was only 17 when he made his first appearance...

only professional appearance in Shakespeare, and, while his stage roles have included accomplished performances in Chekhov's Platonov and Pirandello's Henry IV...

first Captain Hook - he is prepared to alter his image, and from next Monday his Lord Loam will be trudging over the desert sands in ragged trousers at the bidding of his cleverer butler.

Jeremy Kingston The Admirable Crichton, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford (0483 60191), July 4-16: Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 55065), July 18-30: Theatre Royal, Haymarket (01-930 9832), previews from August 3, opens August 8.

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Liaison missing in child crisis

MARKETS THE POUND FT 30 Share 1485.1 (+1.9) FT-SE 100 1858.2 (+0.6) USM (Datastream) 182.03 (+1.12) US dollar 1.7005 (-0.0080) W German mark 3.0941 (-0.0032) Trade-weighted 75.0 (-0.2)

Executive Editor David Brewerton

Rate rises fail to halt dollar

The dollar continued to strengthen yesterday in spite of the rise in the German discount rate and other European rates the previous day.

By the close of dealing in London, the dollar had risen from DM1.8150 to DM1.8195 and from Y133.60 to Y134.20.

The rise in the dollar helped to maintain pressure for another rise in interest rates in Britain.

The pound closed about 60 points below the previous day against the dollar at \$1.7005, though it was little changed against the mark at DM3.0978.

Schroders top

Schroder Waggs has succeeded in topping Morgan Grenfell from its long-held leading position among the City's financial advisers on bids for publicly-quoted companies in Britain.

The survey, which assesses performance during the first half of this year, shows that SG Warburg has also overtaken Morgan Grenfell, which is now only in third place.

STOCK MARKETS New York Dow Jones 2136.20 (-6.51) Tokyo Nikkei Average 27503.53 (-265.87) Hang Kong Hang Seng 2684.84 (+13.15) Amsterdam Gen 282.8 (-1.0) Sydney AG 1559.0 (+7.7) Frankfurt Commerzbank 1498.5 (+24.5) Brussels General 4953.3 (-25.8) Parite CAC 358.7 (+1.7) Zurich SKA Gen 488.6 (+0.1) London FT-All Share 963.88 (+0.87) FT-500 1063.70 (+1.70) FT Gold Mines 210.4 (+1.2) FT Fixed Interest 87.53 (-0.03) FT Govt Sacs 87.82 (-0.10) Recent Issues Page 26 Closing prices Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER: A Cohen 790p (+25p) Savoy Hotels 'A' 955p (+10p) Henderson Admin 755p (+40p) WPP 826p (+28p) Vosper Thornycroft 212p (+22p) Schroders 426p (+12p) EPI 426p (+12p) Eurotherm 375p (+12p) Systone 305p (+15p) AC 437p (+13p) Castrol 127p (+30p) CE Health 440p (+13p) Reuters 553p (+11p) Card Group 227p (+14p) Bulough 472p (+13p)

FALLS:

Graner 477p (-22p) Micron 240p (-10p) Graham House 390p (-10p) Ranger 330p (-10p) Hanger 760p (-10p) Closing prices 297p Bargains

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 9 1/2% 3-month interbank 10 1/2-10% 3-month eligible bills 9 1/2-9 3/4% buying rate US Prime Rate 9% Federal Funds 7 1/2-7 3/4% 3-month Treasury Bills 6.56-6.54% 30-year bonds 10 3/4-10 3/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York £ \$1.7005 £ \$1.7010 £ DM3.0941 £ DM1.8195 £ Sfr12.5635 £ Sfr1.5130 £ FF10.453 £ FF6.3307 £ Yen228.10 £ Yen134.20 £ Index: 75.0 £ Index: 87.7 ECU £0.669636 SDR £0.766752

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$436.50 pm \$436.85 Close \$436.75-437.25 (2257.50-253.0) New York: Comex \$436.90-437.40

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.) pm \$14.30 (\$14.50) * Denotes latest trading price

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Vosper Thornycroft (02361) up 19p ahead of Tuesday's figures; Macalan Glenlivet (01104) tumbled 40p on news of a rights issue; an agreed offer pushed Cox Moore (04307) up 40p; talk of an impending bid was good for a 40p gain at Henderson Administration. Latest addition is English and Overseas Properties (03334), available from today. Calls are charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak incl. VAT.

THF chief accuses Sir Hugh Wontner of 'fraud' and 'lies' Savoy shows Forte the exit

Small shareholders yesterday snubbed plans by the multi-millionaire hotel owner, Mr Rocco Forte, to take over the £600 million luxury Savoy Hotel group.

A packed and emotional extraordinary meeting of shareholders at the hotel gave 12-1 backing to the Savoy's campaign to halt the legal action being taken by Trusthouse Forte. The action is aimed at cancelling a crucial 5.7 per cent block of high-voting B shares.

Mr Forte, THF's chief executive, ran into a wall of hostility from shareholders when he told the meeting that the former chairman of the Savoy, the former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Hugh Wontner, had lied to them about a share deal 18 years ago, and had hatched a scheme enabling himself and his friends to continue to control the company.

The independent shareholders of the Savoy, who control 7 per cent of the company, refused to be swayed by Mr Forte's case and overwhelmingly backed their directors.

Afterwards Mr Forte said he had been surprised at the reaction of some shareholders. "They don't seem to care if it was fraud. I am shocked, because they appear to be saying that even if Wontner acted improperly he did so in the best interests of the company, and that makes it all right. But we will carry on with our legal battle."

Sir Hugh said: "Shareholders do not want Lord Forte or his son to take over - by the front door or by the back door, which is the method they are adopting at the moment. I have been made into a villain in the hope that I would be intimidated."



Driven away from the Savoy: Rocco Forte gets into his car after being rebuffed by shareholders at yesterday's meeting

Fewer than half the company's 1,900 small shareholders voted on the issue, but of those who did, 854 favoured a resolution to end the court case and 69 backed Trusthouse. Of votes cast, 53.2 per cent sided with the board and 46.8 per cent supported Trusthouse. The result was without Sir Hugh's own holding or the 5.7 per cent stake being voted. Trusthouse owns nearly 70 per cent of the Savoy - which includes Claridge's, the Connaught, and the Berkeley - but because of the voting structure speaks for only 42.3 per cent of the votes. If it succeeds in cancelling the 5.7 per cent block its own stake will go up to 44.8 per cent, and the board's holding will fall from just over 50 per cent to 47 per cent.

Mr Forte - making his first appearance at a Savoy meeting since his company's seven-year battle for control started - claimed the 5.7 per cent block was issued improperly when the Savoy bought the Lancaster Hotel in Paris in 1970.

"At that time Sir Hugh told shareholders that the shares were issued for the purpose of that acquisition, and that Mr Wolf, the hotel owner, wanted shares and particularly a high proportion of B shares. Evidence which we have recently obtained shows that Sir Hugh Wontner lied to the shareholders at that meeting. Wolf did not want shares, he wanted cash. And that is what he received."

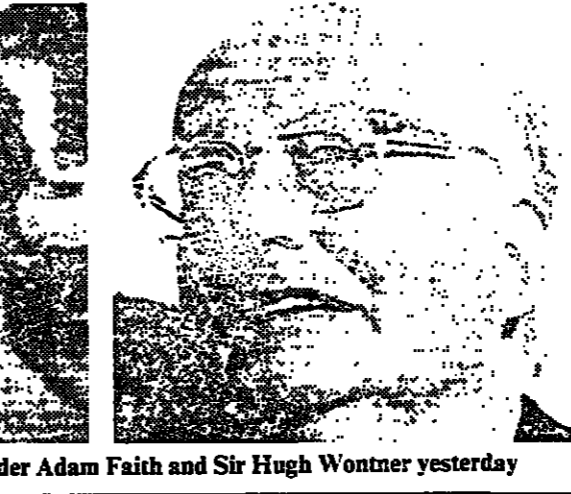
But there was resounding support for Sir Hugh. One shareholder, Mr Peter Eve, said: "The question of whether or not there have been irregularities is of little significance for us, because we are confident that, whatever irregularities there may or may not have been, Sir Hugh, if he did, committed them in the best interests of the Savoy."

Sir Hugh said of Lord Forte: "He is trying to remove shares owned by a totally bona fide Swiss charity by building up claims that the shares were improperly issued for nothing, apparently by me, in total secrecy, in the dead of night, to enable me and my friends to reign forever supreme. If you believe that you will believe anything."

But Sir Hugh admitted that he was in the wrong for not disclosing the existence of the shareholding.



Vote of Faith: Savoy shareholder Adam Faith and Sir Hugh Wontner yesterday



Vote of Faith: Savoy shareholder Adam Faith and Sir Hugh Wontner yesterday

Cubans may join Danish consortium in NESL bid

Manbisa, the state-owned Cuban shipping company, may join a Danish-led consortium studying a possible takeover of the troubled North East Shipbuilders (NESL) - the Wearside yard the Government wants to privatize or close within the next year, industry sources said yesterday.

Securing a £100 million order from the Havana-based line for 10 cargo vessels has played a key part in recent efforts to save the order-starved NESL, British Shipbuilders' biggest yard, and a holding in the company would give Manbisa a strong incentive for placing business with NESL.

In response to an urgent request for Government aid of £28 million towards the Cuban order, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Trade and Industry Minister, last week refused to be "bounced" into providing help, saying that the Cubans had indicated that they could wait.

A consortium, led by Mr Peter Zaechi, a Danish entrepreneur who is based in Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, subsequently disclosed that it was studying the commercial viability of NESL and expected to make a decision on whether to make an offer early this month.

The industry sources said Manbisa had already discussed the possibility of joining the consortium, probably in order to guarantee itself access to berths when the expected surge in world demand for new shipping takes place.

The company, which has bought ships from NESL before, has a good record on paying and is regarded by BS as a valuable potential customer.

Halifax launches Visa card

Britain's largest building society, the Halifax, is launching its own Visa credit card and undercutting the high street banks on interest costs.

While Visa and Access cards issued by the banks normally charge at an annual percentage rate of 23.1, the Halifax Visa card has an Apr of 20.9.

The card, available from Monday, will not be limited to the building society's 13 million customers.

The Halifax card is not the cheapest on the market - Save & Prosper charges 16 per cent Apr.

GEC may use cash to buy own shares

Lord Weinstock, the managing director of GEC, wants to spend nearly half the group's £1.4 billion cash mountain on buying its own shares.

The move would give a strong further boost to earnings per share, which analysts expect to rise by 10 per cent in the current year.

After adjusting for taxation, a substantial share-buying programme would raise earnings per share by a further 10 per cent in a full year.

Lord Weinstock, who said in a television interview that the plan was under consideration, added that a share-buying programme would prove a better long-term investment than further acquisitions.

Institutional investors have been increasingly critical of GEC's cash mountain, which earns a return far below that generated on the physical assets employed in the business.

"The real problem is that any acquisition that we can see in the market will yield in the long term to GEC shareholders a less good return than buying GEC shares," Lord Weinstock said on the Channel 4 programme. Business Daily.

Kenneth Fleet, page 27

Bond plan to merge with Bell empire

Mr Alan Bond will lose direct control of his international empire, under a grand plan to merge his companies with those of Mr Robert Holmes & Court, his fellow Perth entrepreneur.

He intends to merge Bell Resources with his flagship, Bond Corporation Holdings, and Bell Group with Bond Media, which is half-owned by Bond Corp.

Unveiling the huge restructuring yesterday, Bond executives said the first group would contain the brewing division. This has assets in Australia, the US and substantial markets in Britain and in Pacific countries. It is the world's fourth biggest brewer.

The second group will contain the media interests, mainly the West Australian, Perth's sole morning newspaper, and the country's most successful television station, the Channel Nine network.

Bell Resources/Bond Corp, which will probably be renamed, would become Australia's second biggest company on an asset basis, after BHP. The reformed groups will have net assets of Aus\$4 billion and virtually no debts, assuming asset sales of about Aus\$5.5 billion.

It is suggested Bond Corp shareholders would be offered Aus\$2.77 a share and Bond Media shareholders Aus\$1.20 a share. This compares with yesterday's closing prices of Aus\$2.28 and 80 cents.

The Bond plan is dependent on its Aus\$40 million bid for a further 60 per cent of Bell Group succeeding. Bond Corp already owns 19.9 per cent.

Sir Ron Brierley and Mr Kerry Packer have withdrawn their contentious Aus\$1 billion bid for Bell Resources, and sold their 6 per cent stake to Bond. They also withdrew their Aus\$77 million offer for JN Taylor, a Bell associate. Their estimated profit was Aus\$25 million.

Bell Resources, 43 per cent owned by Bell Group, and Taylor (37 per cent) are the cash-rich arms of the Bell empire and had to stay intact if the bid by Bond for the parent, Bell Group, were to be justified economically.

Mr Bond controls Bond Corp with 52 per cent ownership. The implementation of his plan would mean he would own 15 per cent of Bell Group and 19 per cent of Resources. It is proposed that he will acquire another 15 per cent of Bell Group, from Bond Corp, lifting his stake to 30 per cent. That will give him an influence over Bell Group's holding in Bell Resources and give him a direct and indirect control of 47 per cent of the merged group.

British buyer for top US producers

The City yesterday welcomed Television South's ambitious transatlantic plans to buy MTM, the US independent television production company, but questioned how the reported \$325 million (£191 million) acquisition will be funded.

TVS is capitalized on the London stock market at £127.4 million and would need additional funding besides its £25 million cash holding to finance such a deal. Analysts believe that TVS could find a conventional rights issue hesy going, and expect the company to fund the deal through a high coupon convertible.

It is, however, agreed that TVS would be stealing a march on its competitors if it successfully acquires the privately owned Los Angeles group.

City welcomes bold bid from Television South

By Colin Campbell

But for the October stock market crash, MTM had planned a New York listing last year by offering 22 per cent of its stock for sale.

There was, however, widespread City frustration last night at TVS's insistence that it had "no comment" ahead of a formal statement on Wednesday when it will announce interim results for the period ended April.

Options and Futures for the Private Investor

A healthy income from its long-running shows such as the Bob Newhart programme, which features the actor-comedian as a writer who runs a small hotel.

This season it is also launching yet another vehicle for Miss Moore, whose original Mary Tyler Moore Show broke so much ground in the early 1970s and won a record 29 Emmy awards - one more than Hill Street Blues a decade later.

The MTM show began by violating rules dictated by Mr Tinker by CBS: "We don't want a situation comedy that features people from New York, people with moustaches and people who have been divorced."

MTM - the kitten that roared

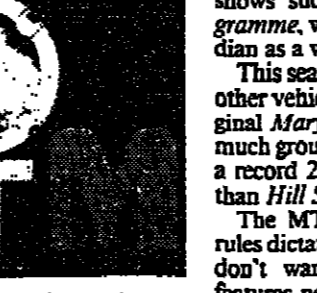
From Charles Bremner, New York

Ask any television writer about MTM Enterprises, the Los Angeles production company taken over by Television South, and his eyes will mist over. In the land of cheap canned laughs and hip car crashes, MTM was the anomaly that broke all the rules of US prime time television and proved that quality could sell.

Defined a couple of years ago by the British Film Institute as "the most innovative company in American Television," MTM has turned out 10 big hit shows since its 1969 foundation by Mary Tyler Moore, the actress, who gave it her initials, and Grant Tinker, her then husband.

So successful was Hill Street Blues, the gritty series about inner city cops, that it became the first prime time show in American history to feature regular advertisements for Mercedes Benz cars.

In a telling comment, Mr Brandon Tartikoff, the successful entertainment chief for NBC, recently described quality television as "something that starts with low ratings and ends with a cat meowing." MTM uses the meowing cat as its trademark signature - a sly play on the MGM lion.



MTM image: An American winner divorced from Miss Moore after a long separation in 1981.

He gave up control to his wife and lost all his interest in the hugely lucrative syndication rights to MTM's shows. Hollywood writers still look back to Mr Tinker's tenure as the golden age of MTM. At NBC, he brought the network from the ratings basement to number one, with shows such as Cheers, Family Ties and LA Law.

MTM's two biggest drama hits, Hill Street Blues and St Elsewhere - a surreal and intelligent variation of the hospital soap opera - have taken their final bows on the US networks in the past 12 months.

None of MTM's recent new shows, though highly acclaimed by the critics, have survived a season. Two years ago it suffered a big loss with the failure of an ambitious spin-off show about a baseball team called Bay City Blues.

But the company, run by Mr Arthur Price, one of its founders, is still earning

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Macallan-Glenlivet is raising £12.75m

Macallan-Glenlivet, the Scottish malt whisky group, is raising £12.75 million via a one-for-four rights issue at 685p.

Despite the increased share capital base that the rights issue will mean, the board intends to maintain its progressive dividend policy.

Holmes' £3m expansion Shanks ahead of forecast

Holmes & Marchant Group, the marketing and design consultant, has made its expected move into consumer advertising with the purchase of Broadbeat Advertising.

Shanks & McEwan Group, the waste disposal business, has comfortably beaten forecasts made at the time of its stock market debut in February.

Australian campaign

Australia will spend Aus\$1.5 million (£700,000) on a global campaign to attract more wealthy businessmen as migrants, said Mr Clyde Holding, the immigration minister.

This would bring a capital inflow of Aus\$1.5 billion. But the government would not be blinded by money alone, Mr Holding said in Brisbane.

SE quote bid by Radamec Life Sciences buys US firm

Radamec Group, the USM-quoted control systems maker, plans a full Stock Exchange listing. At the same time it is raising £2.9 million after expenses by means of a one-for-five rights issue at 100p.

Pericom slips into loss

Pericom, the computer graphics terminals manufacturer, made a pre-tax loss of £28,000 for the first six months to end-March, against profits of £540,000, and is missing its half-way dividend.

Only £196,000 of the first-half deficit was at the trading level, said Mr Ron Cragg, the chairman. The rest was made up of £135,000 currency losses and provisions on stock write-downs.

US eyes on Smith & Nephew

Dealers made their way home from the City yesterday convinced that a US bid is on the way for Smith & Nephew, the medical and household products group which has leading brand names such as Elastoplast and Nivea.

The FT-SE 100 share index ended the day 0.6 points up — and 8.1 points higher on the account — at 1,858.2. The narrower FT 30 share index closed 1.9 points better at 1,485.1.

Among the internationals to make progress, The Rank Organisation closed 12p up at 736p and Reuters 10p dearer at 554p.

Gilt-edged stocks cheapened by 1/4 on currency influences and the prospect of higher interest rates.

English and Overseas Properties, a subsidiary of Pentos, the Dillons books and Athena greeting cards group, made a satisfactory market debut.

The shares were placed at 155p through the British Morgan Grenfell Securities, the broker, rates the shares of the TSB as a buy.

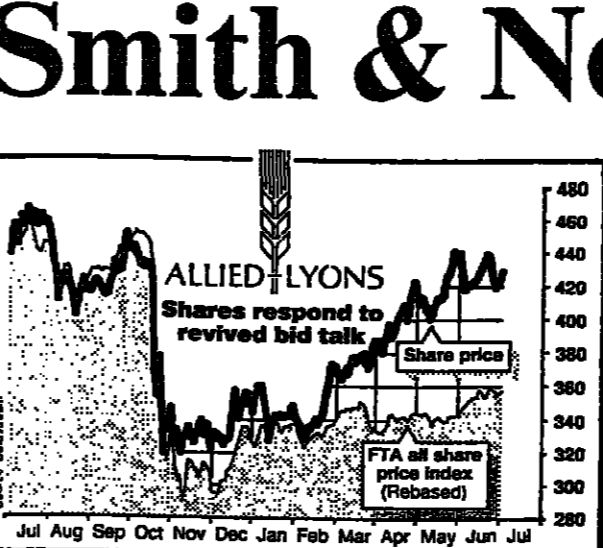
Elsewhere, the rest of the market ended the account on a quietly firm note.

Interest remained at an extremely low ebb with a programme sell operation by Morgan Stanley causing scant alarm. International stocks benefited from the strong dollar, while other leaders were little changed.

Dealers were reluctant to commit fresh funds ahead of next week's expected half-point rise in base rates to 10 per cent.

Dealers were, nevertheless, still bullish about the market's short-term prospects, believing that with the institutions' second quarter now out of the way, they might well decide to test the water again and start spending some of their accumulated cash.

STOCK MARKET



Speculation concerning the 7 per cent stake in the group held by Mr Alan Bond, the Australian businessman, resurfaced as his Bond Corporation published its proposals for a merger with Bell Resources in Australia.

Mr Bond's comments in the document that Bell Resources should specialize as a brewer and expand its operations in Europe and other regions led to the obvious conclusion in the market that Allied-Lyons would be the first target.

Mr Bond is expected to win control of Bell and this will make him virtually unopposed. Allied already brews and distributes Bond's Swan and Castlemaine XXXX lagers in Britain under licence and it has the sole European rights for Castlemaine XXXX.

Mr Bond is said to have made several overtures to Allied in the past about closer working arrangements, but his patience is now said to be running out.

Dealers expect him to raise his stake to at least the 14.9 per cent level before launching his bid for Allied which is capitalized at £3 billion.

With Allied's brand names and the recent fight for Rowntree still fresh in the mind, dealers expect an exit price for Allied of about £9 a share.

Still in the brewery sector, Bass revived with an impressive recovery to 207.5p, up 0.25p, after investment in Australia.

The shares could soon start to move if whispers in the market are anything to go by. They suggest that an overseas buyer is ready to snap up 5 million shares.

provement of 7p to 795p as one leading broker took the view that the shares have been overlooked and were cheap.

Shares of Mowat Group, the USM-listed property developer, continued to go from strength to strength, closing a further 13p up at 66p.

Last month's excellent annual results, which showed

J Williams of Cardiff reports loss

John Williams of Cardiff, which this year underwent management and funding changes, yesterday reported a £553,000 loss for the six months ended March, compared with a previous £186,000 profit.

Mr Brian Brownhill, the new chairman, says his first priority is to "stop the draining away of the company's life blood".

The Wyndham Group, a neighbouring engineering concern of which Mr Brownhill is also chairman, earlier reported £1 million into the group.

Summer target for Reed sales

Reed International expects to become a purely publishing and information company by the end of summer, having by then finalized the sale of its remaining newspaper manufacturing interests in Canada, and the paper and packaging business in Europe.

Sir Stanley Grinstead, the chairman, says in today's annual report that Reed is ready to take advantage of worldwide opportunities in publishing.

Reed is to seek shareholders' approval to buy up to 10 per cent of its own shares.

Dewhurst deal

U Dewhurst, one of Marks and Spencer's main clothing suppliers, is setting up a joint venture in Hong Kong with Elders IXL, the Australian group.

Each partner will hold a 50 per cent share in PS Addison (Far East), a buying agency, which will be renamed Dewhurst Elders.

British banker on bribe charge bailed

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Mr Stuart Leslie Turner, a British banker, was released on bail of HK\$1 million (£75,000) yesterday after appearing in court charged with receiving bribes from Mr George Tan, a former Hong Kong businessman.

Mr Turner, aged 31, a former executive director of Barclays Asia, is charged with accepting 668,000 shares in Carrian Investments.

The shares were worth HK\$3.9 million and it is alleged that they were given to him by Mr Tan, Carrian's former chairman, as a reward for a business favour. Barclays Asia was a member of the Barclays Bank group but its operations have been taken over by Barclays' merchant banking division in Hong Kong.

Mr Turner was arrested in Britain in June last year and was ordered to be extradited to Hong Kong. He launched an appeal against the extradition order but withdrew it and returned.

Bail was set at HK\$500,000 plus the same amount in non-cash sureties, or alternatively HK\$1 million dollars in cash. No plea was taken and he was ordered to appear in court again in two weeks.

WALL STREET

Blue chips inch up in mixed trading

New York (Reuters) — Shares generally were mixed in early trading yesterday, although blue chips showed small gains. Trading was quiet. The Dow Jones industrial average was 1 point higher at 2,142.71.

Rising and falling issues were about evenly matched. Shares in Japanese companies fell sharply after the overnight drop in Tokyo. Matsushita was down by 1/2 to 182. Sony by 1/4 to 37 3/4 and Hitachi by 3/4 to 106 1/2.

The Dow average closed 19.73 higher at 2,141.71 on Thursday. ● Tokyo — The Nikkei Dow index sank by 265.87 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 27,503.53.

Volume was 2.6 billion shares against 2.5 billion. Share prices closed lower because of profit-taking in many large capital issues which were heavily bought in the morning.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index rose by 13.15 points to 2,684.64 and the broader-based Hong Kong index by 9.79 to 1,776.42. Turnover eased to HK\$912.79 million (£68.6 million) from Thursday's HK\$929.57 million.

Prices closed firmer, supported by moderate speculative buying but the market lacked clear direction.

Table with columns for various stock indices and prices, including AMR Co, ASA, Am Life, etc.

Table with columns for various stock indices and prices, including Agropac, Agribank, Agribank, etc.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for company name, price, and volume.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues with columns for company name, price, and volume.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table listing alpha stocks with columns for company name, price, and volume.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings Last Dealings Last Declaration For Settlement

Call options were taken out on: 17/88 Floors, BP p/o, Lesley Wise, Dewey Warren, Norfolk Capital, Rex Williams, Cadbury-Schweppes, Wiggins, Hawk, Reardon, Gibbs, Inoco, New England Properties, British & Commonwealth, CH Bailey, Puts: S Miller, Jersey Ind, Norfolk Capital, Puts & Calls: C Baynes, Tensar Resources.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table listing London traded options with columns for company name, price, and volume.

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Vertical advertisement for Lyoi Angli and Green, featuring a large stylized 'L' and 'A'.

Lyonnaise swallows East Anglian Water for £21.9m

By Colin Narborough

Lyonnaise des Eaux, one of France's top three water companies, yesterday launched a £21.9 million bid for East Anglian Water - its second full bid for a British statutory water company in a fortnight - after its holding rose above the level at which it had to offer for the remaining shares.

share for acquiring the company to 38.5p. Lyonnaise also offered a substantial premium when it made a £47.6 million agreed bid for Essex Water on June 21.

That move was seen as the opening of an anticipated flood of French bids for statutory water companies, which have become highly vulnerable to takeover in the run-up to privatization.

It wants the present East Anglian board to remain, and plans to invite Mr John Pilling, the general manager, to join the Lyonnaise board.

Revived Weinstock again contemplates the big deal



KENNETH FLEET

Would Lord Hanson run General Electric better than Lord Weinstock? Would Lord Weinstock manage Midland Bank better than Sir Kit McMahon? Wild as they may seem, both have been suggested as "solutions" to GEC's "problems" as perceived by City scribblers.

another effect. He has returned with a zest and determination to create something new, as GEC did in the past.

While Lord Hanson is bound to make another mega-bid, I cannot see his choosing GEC. The mix is too complex and the politics too dangerous.

By European standards a pre-tax profit of £708 million on a turnover of £5.5 billion is almost exemplary. In the market's eyes the fault lies in not improving it.

Greene, King sales top £100m

By Alexandra Jackson

Sales at Greene, King & Sons, the East Anglian brewer, where the Australian Elders IXL group has a 13.1 per cent stake, rose by 7 per cent last year to £100.5 million, passing the £100 million mark for the first time.

there is a swing towards this segment of the market. Half of Greene, King's beer is sold in free houses, the rest through the group's 750 pubs.

A capital expenditure programme this year of £16.5 million includes £10 million for upgrading the retail outlets.

Next month Greene, King is launching a new low-alcohol bitter and by January 1990 a new Harp lager brewery will be operational.

Pre-tax profits for the year to May 1 rose from £12.5 million to £14.2 million while earnings per share were 14 per cent higher at 22.5p.

Mr John Bridge, the chairman, said: "I am confident Greene, King will continue to develop and prosper and that this will be reflected in our financial results."

Mr Redman explained that there was further scope for improving the cost base in the core brewing business although volumes were likely to remain relatively flat.

These include the group's 30 per cent stake in Big R leisure, a company operating roller-skating rinks and night clubs, and a 35 per cent holding in a budget hotels group, Butterfly Hotels.

Mr John Bridge, the chairman, said: "I am confident Greene, King will continue to develop and prosper and that this will be reflected in our financial results."

Mr Redman said the current year had started well, although he thought it unlikely the second half would be as strong as 1987-88.

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Beaming prosperity and confidence: John Bridge, Greene, King's chairman. (Photograph: James Morgan)

Moorgate shares suspended

By Our City Staff

Shares in the Moorgate Group, the financial marketing company, were suspended at 11.10p yesterday as the company revealed a bid approach.

At the suspension price, which is 4p less than its debut price on the USM in April 1985, the group is valued at £7.4 million.

The company also said that its figures for 1987, which should already have been reported, were not yet finalized.

He added: "We're talking to a business with whom we make an extremely good fit. It's definitely in our mutual interest. But this isn't the sort of area where aggressive moves can be made."

Although Moorgate is the kind of specialized agency which would be attractive to acquisitive conglomerates such as Saatchi & Saatchi and WPP, the beting in the City was that the eventual approach would not come from one of the obvious contenders.

The bid is likely to come from a group anxious to get its hands on Moorgate's consultancy business, market watchers believe.

Moorgate has the distinction among such agencies of producing its own tailored personal finance products.

BP sells its stake in Ninian field to Lasmo and Ranger

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP's stake in the Ninian field in the North Sea, which has been on the market for the past two years has been sold to Lasmo and Ranger, two of the remaining independent operators in the industry.

The deal is worth \$138.5 million (£81.47 million), with Lasmo and Ranger delaying a further payment of \$10 million until the new Columbia field, which is also involved in the sale, is given government approval.

It means that BP still has 28.24 per cent of the field, a stake it acquired when it bought Britoil, and that the two independents now have access to a larger share of production.

Mr Mark Fletcher, oil analyst at SG Warburg, the broker, said that the deal has meant that Lasmo and Ranger have both acquired assets at prices well below that being offered by other companies.

He said: "Lasmo has surprised the market by its audacity in making this move and it a very good deal for them. The new shares being issued to pay for the deal look a bargain, even if they are priced far higher than the market price was a month ago."

Ninian, which is operated by Chevron Oil, is the North Sea's third largest field and at its peak produced 307,000 barrels of oil every day.

fallen to 140,000 barrels per day, but this still makes it one of the largest oilfields in the world.

Since March this year, when BP found itself sitting on its original 14.38 per cent stake and the larger 21.4 per cent share it acquired when it took over Britoil, it has been trying to find a buyer.

Lasmo is still an oil industry takeover target and yesterday RTZ, which owns 29 per cent of the company, agreed to keep its stake at that level by taking up its proportion of the £88 million worth of shares Lasmo is issuing to pay for the deal. The new shares have been placed by Cazenove, the broker.

Defiant Runciman attacks Telfos

By Martin Waller

Walter Runciman, the shipping, insurance and security group under threat from a £28.25 million bid from the revitalized engineer, Telfos Holdings, has gone sharply on the attack in its defence document.

Mr Garry Runciman, the chairman, said the Telfos management had no experience of any of the three main areas in which his group operated. He added that Telfos management had been responsible for a drop in its own operating profits, excluding investment dealing, from £1 million in 1985 to £640,000 in 1987.

With Telfos sitting on almost 25 per cent and the Runciman board reckoning another 33 per cent in the hands of directors or the



Runciman: bid "inadequate" family, the outcome of the battle is likely to be decided by about 3,000 private investors who hold roughly a quarter of the shares.

fos bid was "grossly inadequate" given the increase in the value of the group's fleet, which includes six liquefied petroleum gas carriers, as the world shipping market recovered. Its ships are valued in the books at £20 million but could be worth twice that, he added.

"These ships are now realizing a major earnings potential. Any shareholder who sold out to somebody who is buying in on today's asset value would be foregoing those benefits over the coming years."

Telfos is offering a shares-and-cash package worth 32.2p at yesterday's price, with a 300p cash alternative. Runciman shares were unchanged at 331p.

Oakwood and CoxMoore merge

By Carol Ferguson

Oakwood Group, the electrical engineering and sanitary fittings company, has agreed to merge with CoxMoore, the textile manufacturer, in a deal which will create an industrial holding company valued at about £49 million.

Mr Norman Featherman, chief executive of Oakwood, said that the first question of CoxMoore was industrial move in building a large industrial holding company on the lines of BTR.

Mr Michael Renton, the chairman of CoxMoore, who will join the board of Oakwood as joint chairman with Mr Featherman after the merger, said that their combined resources should enable the more rapid development of their products and markets.

He said he was not interested in making acquisitions in high-technology industries or turnarounds. "We are looking for cash-positive situations with strong cash generation, where the existing management is good," he said.

Oakwood is offering 13 of its own shares for every 55 CoxMoore shares, valuing CoxMoore at £30 million, and each CoxMoore share at 135p, compared with last night's closing price of 128p. This is 42 per cent ahead of the market price of 90p immediately prior to the bid.

its customers include Marks and Spencer. The estimated exit pay ratio for CoxMoore shareholders is 16 on last year's earnings, falling to single figures this year.

Oakwood is a specialized electrical engineering contractor and distributor of water fittings, sanitaryware and kitchen and bathroom units. About 22 per cent of the combined group's profits will come from the electrical engineering business, the balance from CoxMoore. Following the merger, Oakwood will have net borrowings of £8 million and gearing of 30 per cent.

The company said the deal would give significant earnings-per-share growth for Oakwood shareholders, and a significant rise in capital value for CoxMoore shareholders. Oakwood has received irrevocable acceptances from holders of 57.4 per cent of CoxMoore shares.

Tender compromise to Vodafone issue

Racal is the star of my Saturday portfolio, having ascended magnificently from 243p, the price I recommended them at on April 23, to 347p. They are now 339p, looking to an extraordinary shareholders' meeting on August 14 and an even more extraordinary flotation in October of Vodafone, its soaring cellular mobile telephone subsidiary.

similar exercise, GEC would presumably distribute shares free, unless it wanted a huge amount of cash for a mega-bid.

One of the ironies of this exercise is that Racal as a company is no different from what it was three months ago before news of the Vodafone float broke. It is an interesting comment on the valuation skills of analysts and fund managers. However, true to form, the institutional shareholders are determined to have their pre-emption rights in order to keep to themselves the value until Sir Ernest and Goldman Sachs, the American banker, flashed the golden numbers on their screens.

The argument over pre-emption rights should be resolved next week. It would be difficult, and ungenerous, for

the institutions to block the Racal management completely. Racal is already reconciled to releasing 15 per cent of the Vodafone shares (it prefers 20 per cent) and it may have to offer 60 per cent or even 65 per cent of them to existing Racal shareholders. A 20 per cent flotation would concentrate the market action on few shares to the advantage of the price. It would also take Racal back to its original 80 per cent stake and return about £400 million for Racal.

A compromise that might settle the issue is 50 per cent of the available Vodafone shares to existing shareholders, 25 per cent open to an international tender (in which existing shareholders could take part if they wished) and the rest placed in New York. Without American pzzazz and arithmetic, Racal shareholders would not be counting their gains now. And they might bear in mind that the Vodafone flotation may not be the end of the story.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, organized into columns for various categories like EQUITY & LAW, FUND MANAGERS, and others. Each entry includes a name, a brief description, and numerical data points.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, and other financial metrics.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Dollar, and Euro.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table detailing sterling spot and forward rates for different terms and currencies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with their respective assets, liabilities, and performance indicators.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various countries and currencies.

MONEY MARKETS

Table showing money market rates, including overnight and short-term rates.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS

Table of Euro money deposit rates for different currencies and terms.

BULLION

Table listing bullion prices for gold and silver.

COINS

Table of coin prices for various countries.

TREASURY BILLS

Table of treasury bill rates and prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices for various instruments.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for various goods like oil, sugar, and metals.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices for different metals.

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Table of meat and livestock prices from the commission.

LONDON FUEL FUTURES

Table of London fuel futures prices.

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Table of London potato futures prices.

ICE-LOR COMMODITIES

Table of ICE-LOR commodity prices for various goods.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If you are out of a share of the total weekly dividend, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Claims appear on the back of your card.

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Week Total

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change	%
British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%
British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%
British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%

UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	%
British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%

INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change	%
British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change	%
British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%
Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Account ends quietly

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began June 20. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day July 11. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 25).

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open	1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00	100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00	100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000

Claims required for 199 points

ACCUMULATOR £106,000

Claims better than 199 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

INSURANCE

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

E-K

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

FINANCE, LAND

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

FOODS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

L-R

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

OILS, GAS

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

SHIPPING

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

SHOES, LEATHER

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

TEXTILES

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

TOBACCO

1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100	95	90	British	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00
100	95	90	Foreign	100.00	+0.50	+0.5%	100.00

FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

Home-income campaign to continue

The MP John Butterfill lost his fight this week to have tax relief on home-income plans rolled up. If it had been successful the move would have greatly improved the schemes, designed to help elderly people raise income from the capital tied up in their homes.

Waddingham, is that the administration costs in one of these DIY schemes will probably be lower than one with a conventional provider. Also, one of the investment options open is commercial property, so partners can count any investment they make in their own premises as investment in the pension, and receiving tax relief.

Aids penalty

General Accident is increasing term assurance rates by up to 110 per cent to counter the threat of rising claims from Aids victims. Men around the age of 30 are hardest-hit but some premiums for older women have been reduced by as much as 17 per cent.

House-rich

Soon no area of the country will be immune from "rampaging" house-price increases, says the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The institution says that more than half of the 188 estate agents who contributed to its survey of prices for the first quarter of this year said prices had gone up eight per cent or more over the period. This implies an annual increase of 30 per cent or more.

Costly children

School fees are swallowing up to 25 per cent of income in the households of most families with children at independent schools, according to a survey by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS). Fifteen per cent of parents spend between 26 and 40 per cent of income on school fees. But few parents seem to be paying for private schooling out of special schemes from insurance companies. Only 19 per cent of those questioned for the survey had planned ahead in this way.

Big is cheaper

Northern Rock Building Society is offering cheaper mortgages for larger loans. The reduction is 0.5 per cent on the society's standard rate, currently 9.75 per cent and it applies to new loans above £60,000 in London and above £40,000 outside the capital. The Halifax and Abbey National

building societies have both launched discounted rates on mortgages over £60,000 recently. Northern Rock says it wants to recognize that buyers outside London require smaller loans.

Tax-free gain

Abbey National investors who are compensated for not being eligible to vote on whether the society should convert to a plc will not have to pay income tax on these sums.

The money will be treated as a capital gain, so only those with realized gains of £5,000 or more for the financial year will be liable for tax. Those with deposits of less than £100 or who are under 18 will be entitled to a pay-out.

Members entitled to vote may receive a hand-out of shares in the newly created company in recognition of the mutual status of the society which is owned by its members - unlike the TSB where ownership was in doubt at the time of the flotation. They will be liable to capital gains tax only when they sell the shares. The Abbey has been reluctant to give details of its plans to convert from a mutual organization to a plc until the final regulations are issued by the Building Societies Commission. These are expected in July before Parliament meets for the summer recess. Originally they were not expected until the autumn.

"We intend to recognize the members' ownership of the society as far as possible," said an Abbey spokesman.

Card competition

The Halifax Building Society is undercutting the main high street banks with a 20.9 per cent interest rate on its new Visa card, available from Monday. This compares with the standard rate of 23.1 per cent on the banks' cards. However, the Halifax has not gone as low as Chase Manhattan's which recently surprised its competitors with a Visa card with a rate of 16.9 per cent.



Consumer win

Competition in the mortgage market certainly seems to be working in the consumer's favour. Building societies and other lenders are still pausing on whether to increase loan rates despite the further rise in base rates this week to 9.5 per cent. A rise among building societies might have been inevitable but for the present record in-flow of investments. Even the smaller lenders who have been under-cutting the societies are holding off until rates appear to have peaked.

Anyone hoping to latch on to a fixed-rate mortgage with Lloyds Bank at 10 per cent is out of luck. The £300 million allocated by the bank has been used up and the deadline for applications was the close of business on Thursday.

DIY pensions

Amid the plethora of information on DIY pensions, the members of professional partnerships may be interested in a system that allows them to set up and administer their own personal pensions. They can do this by forming small friendly societies, within the partnership. There are now about 200 such societies operating within professional partnerships throughout the country according to Adrian Waddingham, of actuaries Waddingham & Co, which set up the schemes. One great advantage, says Mr

Dail a computer, says NatWest

National Westminster Bank is launching a telephone banking service which uses a computer to listen to customers' spoken instructions. The bank says the computer's voice-recognition system can cope with practically any type of accent or distortion in a voice.

Customers can use the service in two ways. They can speak directly to the computer, which is programmed to recognize numbers and coded instructions. They can also instruct the computer via a "tone" pad, which transmits signals the computer recognizes.

Many modern telephones work automatically on tone systems, but special pads which NatWest will supply are needed to operate traditional telephones. Action Line can supply an up-to-date balance and details of the last five transactions, bill payment, ordering of statements and cheque books. The bank is about to start recruiting customers in the Bristol area for a pilot scheme. If successful, the service will become available throughout the country.

Karen Smith, a NatWest research officer, phones the Action Line



INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Table with columns: Nominal rate, Compounded rate at tax rates, Min/max Investment, Notice, Contact. Rows include BANKS (Ordinary Dep A/c, Fixed Term Deposits, National Westminster, Midland), BUILDING SOCIETIES (Ordinary A/c, Bristol & West, Bradford & Bingley, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Britannia, Northern Rock), MONEY FUNDS (Aitken Hume Monthly Inc, Allied Arab HICA, Bank of Scotland, Barclays High Rate Dep, Britannia High Interest, Citibank Money Mkt Plus, HFC Bank PLC, Henderson Cheque A/c, HICA Investment A/c, Midland HICA, Nat West Special Reserve, Oppenheimer Money Mgmt, Phillips & Drew HICA, Provincial Bank PLC, Royal Bk of Scot Prem A/c, S & P HIBA, Schroder Wagg, TSB HICA, Tyndall Card, Tyndall 7-day, UDT 7-day, Western Trust), NATIONAL SAVINGS (Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bond, Deposit Bond, 33rd Issue Cert, Yearly Plan, General Extension Rate), GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (Credit & Commerce, Credit & Commerce, Municipal Life, Abbey National, Financial Assurance), FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS (Sterling, US Dollar, Yen, D Mark, French Franc, Swiss Franc).

KEY RATES

Table with columns: Retail Prices Index (May '87 to May '88) +4.2%, Mortgage rate* 9.75%, Bank base rate 9.5%, Bank prime overdraft rate* 12.5-16.5% APR, Personal loan rate* 19% APR, Credit card rate* 23.1% APR, Hire purchase rate** 26% APR, Bank deposit account 3%, Building society ordinary account 3.5%, High-interest cheque account* 5.90%, Holiday exchange rates - £ buys* Spanish peseta 202.50, French franc 16.30, Greek drachma 243, Italian lira 2275.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing various banks and their base lending rates, including ABN (9.50%), Adam & Company (9.50%), BCCI (9.50%), Consolidated Creds (9.50%), Co-operative Bank (9.50%), C. Hoare & Co. (9.50%), Hong Kong & Shanghai (9.50%), Lloyds Bank (9.50%), Nat Westminster (9.50%), Royal Bank of Scotland (9.50%), TSB (9.50%), Citibank NA (9.50%).

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various insurance investment funds with columns: Bid, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes sections for EAGLE STAR INSURANCE, HILL SAMUEL LIFE, NIA Tower, and various other fund names.

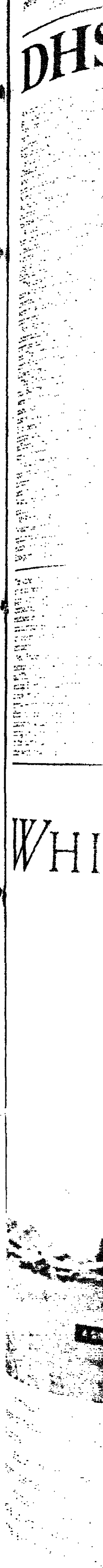
UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various insurance investment funds with columns: Bid, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes sections for FREDERICK GUY, PROPERTY GROWTH, and various other fund names.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Large table listing various insurance investment funds with columns: Bid, Offer, Chng, Yld. Includes sections for STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO, SUN ALLIANCE, and various other fund names.

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading



Report on the pensions revolution Pages 32-34

FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Vivien Goldsmith

DHSS coming to the rescue?

A victim of the Barlow Clowes gilt fund collapse believes he may be receiving financial help soon from unexpected quarters, the Department of Health and Social Security.

Stuart Reynolds, from Chesdale Hulme, Stockport, who invested £45,000 paid to him as damages against the North West Area Health Authority, has now officially claimed for a rates rebate on his new home.

A local DHSS official told him that rebates were being considered in the cases of victims of the BCI collapse so long as they had no other financial means.

The department has to decide whether people who had invested with the company were now technically without that money.

Mr Reynolds said: "My understanding is that that promise has now been accepted. The form they sent me to apply for a rebate had 'Barlow-Clowes' typed on top of it."

The DHSS said yesterday that Barlow Clowes victims were not necessarily special cases. An official said: "Each case is looked at individually. If a person's circumstances change and their capital is sufficiently reduced, they can apply for benefit."

It could be the one bright spot on an otherwise bleak horizon for Mr Reynolds, aged 36; his wife Karen, aged 34, and their children Jason, 6, and Hollie, 3.

Mr Reynolds explained that 14 years ago he broke his right leg during an amateur football match. He was taken to a Stockport hospital for treat-



Stuart Reynolds and daughter Holly: Mr Reynolds invested £45,000 that he won as damages

ment which was destined to continue until today.

An error in applying plaster to his leg caused a condition resulting in progressive shortening of the muscles and leaving him with a pronounced limp.

He said: "I started proceedings three years after the accident and eight or nine years after that we settled out of court for £47,000. I went to see brokers D. C. Wilson of Bramhall (currently suspended from trading) and on their

assurance and advice invested £45,000.

"They told me my money would be as safe as the Rock of Gibraltar."

"On the strength of it I moved last March but now I could not afford the house I was living in, never mind the house I am in now."

Mr Reynolds' only income now is the £110 a week he earns as a part-time driver with a despatch company. He said: "Just recently I have been offered full-time jobs by

two friends. I know I could do them but you can't avoid the implication that they were only offered because they felt sorry for me."

When he received the award, Mr Reynolds said: "I could have gone mad. We could have had holidays on the QE2 and bought a Ferrari. But I only paid off debts to people who had helped me out and bought a decent second-hand car."

Malcolm Long

BARRY GREENWOOD

THE BARLOW-CLOWES AFFAIR

Into action with the Wise Seven

The national Barlow Clowes investors' committee being formed to co-ordinate the efforts of local action groups is to meet for the first time in Manchester next Wednesday, writes Vivien Goldsmith.

It is expected to elect a committee of seven people to form the basis of a nationwide investors' group. The national solicitors' steering committee is due to meet the previous day, when a committee representing four firms is expected to emerge.

Anthony Gold of the Manchester solicitors, Alexander Tatham, says: "We want to ensure that there is no duplication of work which will help to conserve costs."

Meetings in Cardiff, Kilmarnock and other locations have gathered Barlow Clowes investors together into locally based groups. But, as John Dyer, of Cambridge, says: "It needs one central records system."

He runs a computer company and has already begun collating some of the information gathered by a group based in Cambridge.

Mr Dyer had a capital gains tax bill to pay and deposited £300,000 with Barlow Clowes after being assured it was a safe temporary home for his



John Dyer: Collating details funds. Luckily he had taken the bulk of the money out before the crunch came.

Another member of the Cambridge group, Mrs Elizabeth Nathaniels, who invested £27,000 in Barlow Clowes on the advice of an intermediary, said that the group was telling investors to hold their fire.

"We don't want them sending off money to solicitors that they cannot afford," she said. Instead they should be lobbying their MPs and getting together with other investors to share information.

"We have had letters from all sorts of people - from lords to carpenters - and we are trying to use the skills of those involved," she said.

The Abbey National Building Society is to begin credit-scoring mortgage applicants. The Abbey approached CCN Systems, which is practised in credit-vetting for credit card companies to ask for a system for closer vetting of mortgage applicants.

Neil Fraser-Smith, manager of business control with the Abbey, said: "This is all about responsible lending. Everyone has been looking at how much you can afford to borrow - not how much you can afford to pay. Using income in isolation how can one really justify lending the same sum to two people on the same salary when one is single with few financial commit-

Score chart for home-buyers

ments and the other is married with a family and several outstanding debts?

"What matters is the ability and willingness to pay off the loan, which has to take account of a wide range of factors, of which salary is just one."

But this does not mean that the system of using income multiples as a guideline for how much you can borrow will be swept aside. But in future, mortgage applicants may be more closely questioned on their debts and other liabilities, so the

building society gets a fuller picture of their financial set-up.

The chat with the branch manager will continue but he or she will have the computer assessment as an added tool when deciding whether or not to grant a mortgage, and how much.

But a major flaw in the system of scoring applicants for mortgages is that most bad debt is caused by life crises which cannot be predicted such as divorce or death of the bread winner. The system will, however, allow building societies to

counsel those who want to over-extend themselves. Mr Fraser-Smith said an applicant might be advised to borrow a smaller sum to extend his existing home rather than try to buy a more expensive property.

CCN says that a low-risk customer might be offered a higher salary multiple than the current norm, with perhaps a lower deposit rate and even a lower interest rate.

Lending strategies can be varied by raising or lowering required

score levels, and lending policies can be made consistent across the country.

The National Consumer Council is concerned about the use of credit scoring and plans to issue a set of recommendations next week.

Income multiples for mortgage qualification have gradually risen, some would say to unacceptable levels. When the axe falls on multiple mortgage-interest tax relief on August 1, an unmarried couple or two single people buying together will have to pay £60 a month more on a £60,000 mortgage at 9.5 per cent interest.

VG

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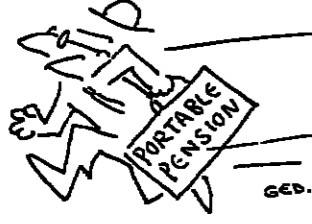
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 Address: _____
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The personal pensions revolution

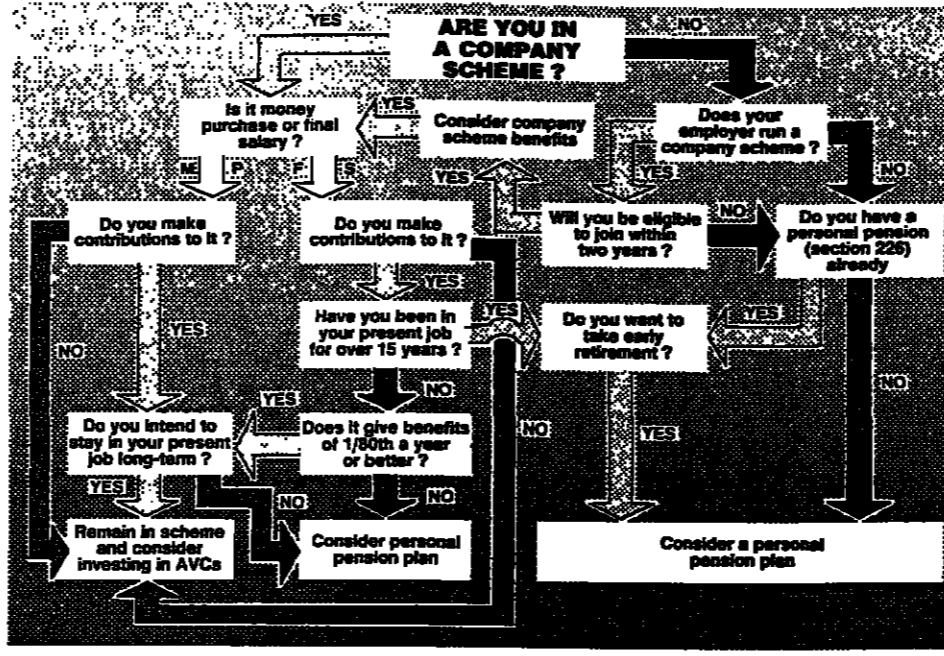
The opening yesterday of the personal pensions market to everyone has been accompanied by considerable hype from the various interested parties. Maria Scott analyses the options



For weeks commercial television has been crammed with advertising for pensions, the ad men doing sterling work in their attempts to turn this dry subject into something upbeat and even amusing. The commercials are introducing us to personal pensions, the lynchpins of the pension revolution which started in earnest yesterday. Personal pensions can be used as a substitute for an employer's scheme, for the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps) or both and are available from insurance companies, banks, building societies and unit trusts. You can take them with you from job to job, in and out of employment or self-employment, and you can have more than one, to make the most of the wide variety of investment alternatives available.

The options available have widened. But beware the sales hype. Personal pensions will not offer a well-heelled old age to everyone. People in middle-age and beyond should probably not use a personal pension to contract out of Serps, though they might want to use one to add to it. Similarly, those in a good company scheme should think twice before abandoning it for a personal pension. This is particularly true for those in middle-age who do not expect to move jobs before retiring. Anyone in a company scheme already contracted out of Serps or which requires no contribution from employees needs to be especially careful. But for those outside these groups, the arguments for starting a personal pension scheme are powerful. The Government is offering some financial sweeteners to

encourage people to contract out of Serps. The incentives are rebates on national insurance contributions, tax relief on part of that NI contribution and, in many cases, a special bonus payable each year until 1993. This is all in addition to the tax relief which you will receive on any contributions you make to the scheme over and above what the Government will put in for you. So you could start a personal pension off with £2,366 from the Government, though the cash itself will not be available for some months after you actually contract out. Serps and most company schemes base a pension on earnings during your working life whereas a personal pension is based on the value of the fund which has been built up through your contributions. You are dependent on



the skills of investment managers, the ups and downs of world stock markets and interest rates. It is inadvisable to base a personal pension only on what the Government will contribute. It is the bare minimum for achieving a decent standard of living in retirement.

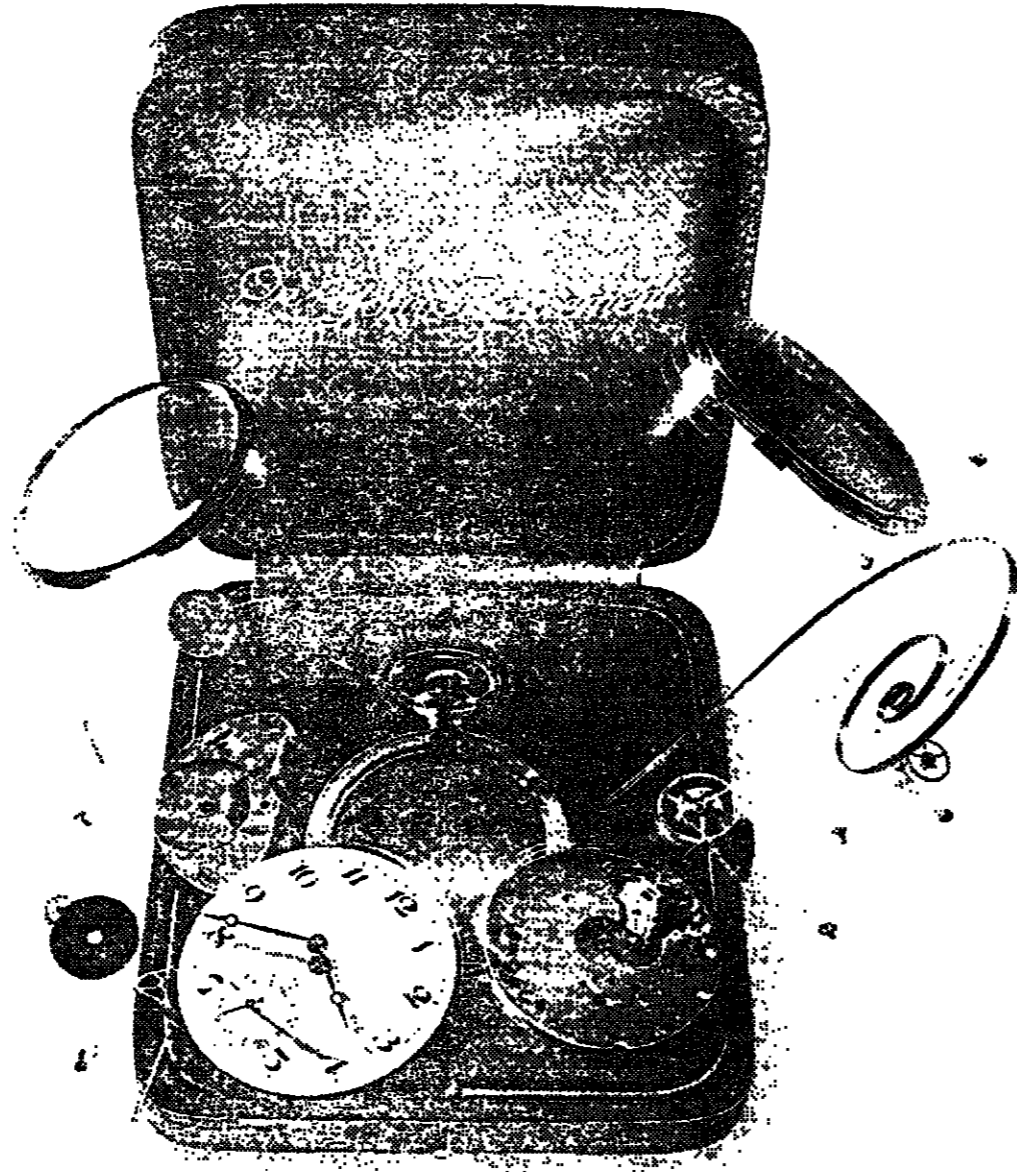
You are allowed to contribute up to 17.5 per cent of annual earnings to a personal pension until the age of 50 and more after that. Any contributions you do make above the basic amount which might be contributed by the state, get tax relief at your highest rate. The money you invest accumulates free of tax. So if you want to save for retirement outside the state or a company scheme, a personal pension ought to form the core of your savings plan. The money will be worth much more to you than it would in any other type of investment account. A further advantage is that

you can carry back contributions to get tax relief from years when you were not contributing to a pension scheme. If you contribute more than the Government's minimum from Serps the additional funds you build up can be taken in part as a tax-free lump sum. Personal pensions come in a variety of forms. Banks and building societies, which are entering this market for the first time, will offer plans based on deposit accounts. Insurance companies already have considerable experience with pensions through their management of the predecessors to the new personal pensions. Therefore they have a track record based on past performance. There is fierce competition for places among the top 10 and annual surveys of performance. These surveys are not a guide to how companies will perform in the future, but there is little sense in picking one with a bad past record. Insurance companies can invest widely to build up your pension. They offer with profit policies which rely heavily on annual bonuses for a large part of the accumulated fund, plus a one-off bonus when the policy matures.

Unit linked policies where your money buys units in a fund in a similar way to unit trust investment, do not have bonuses but they can do better than with-profit policies over a long period. But there is a need to protect yourself soon before retirement by switching to a cash fund. Some companies also offer a unitized with-profits policy which is a hybrid of these two types of scheme. Management charges are something you should look at before deciding on a contract. Pressure is mounting for all pension providers to be more forthcoming on the subject because a number of the newcomers to the market, such as building societies and unit trust groups, are claiming much lower expenses. Insurance companies do not have to tell what their charges are but on a unit-linked contract you can get an indication from the spread between the buying and selling prices of units and from the number of "capital" units allocated to your contributions. In a with-profits or unitized with-profits contract you can get an idea from the surrender value of the policy in its early years.

Who knows what the future holds? All you can do is try to make sure the decisions you take now won't be a cause for regret in times to come. That's why the quality of pension advice you get is so important. Some people will definitely be more equal than others at retirement, simply because they talked to the right people. You'd be surprised how easy it is to get that kind of advice. All you have to do is pop along to your nearest Halifax branch. We've always looked after our customers' best interests. Now we are doing it for their pensions too. Our trained staff will carefully evaluate what you want to pay into a plan and what you want to get out of it. (How would you like to retire at 50, for example?) And they'll match those requirements with the pension to suit you. So you can plan for the good times. Instead of worrying about an untimely surprise.

IF YOU DON'T GET THE BEST PENSION ADVICE, WATCH OUT.



HALIFAX PERSONAL PENSION SERVICE. YOUR BEST PLAN.

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What to look for in a firm's scheme

If your employer says to you, "I would like to help you to buy your house, and while you work here I will pay a half or perhaps even a little more of your mortgage costs — not just the interest but capital repayments as well", you would surely accept, and at the earliest opportunity.



By David Barrett
Information manager at the Company Pensions Information Centre

The same offer made to help provide a pension in retirement is not always met with the same degree of enthusiasm. And yet in most cases it should be. Few realize that the cost of providing a comfortable income in retirement can be comparable to the cost of providing a home to live in — the pension cost could even be the greater of the two.

The first thing to do when offered membership of a scheme is to ask to see the explanatory booklet, and look for these items:

● **Retirement Benefits.** If the scheme provides these benefits linked to "final pay", a pension at the level of 1/60 of final pay for each year of membership is reckoned to be good. Normally there is an option at retirement to give up part of the pension for a tax-free lump sum.

Pension at the lower level of 1/80 (instead of 1/60) but with a lump sum at three times the annual pension in addition is accepted as the equivalent.

If you are married look to see whether your retirement pension continues after your death during the lifetime of your spouse. The norm is continuation at half the level of your own pension.

The main alternative to the "final pay" system is to provide benefits by "money purchase". Contributions by employee and employer are fixed (normally as a percentage of pay) and these contributions invested over the years will produce retirement benefits.

● **Pension increases.** It's all very well to have a good pension on retirement, but how will it stand up to inflation? The first point to make is that there is no legal requirement to provide for any increases to those who have retired.

The only exception is that, if a scheme has contracted you out of Serps (the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme), there will be a small amount of pension, arising from contributions paid after April 6 1988 only, on which the scheme will have to pay modest increases after your retirement. Most schemes will however pay significant increases to pensioners.

In the public sector, increases in line with the change in the retail price index are most often provided. In the private sector such index linking is rare and increases are more likely to be decided yearly at the trustees' discretion.

Where trustees do exercise a discretion in this fashion it could be sensible to ask what awards have in fact been made in recent years.

● **Death benefits.** Even if you have no dependants at present, you may have in the

future, so it is practical to take account of benefits payable at your death in service before pension age. There will almost certainly be a lump sum benefit and a pension will very probably be paid to a widowed spouse in addition. Some schemes allow widows only to qualify for the pension, others allow both widows and widowers to qualify.

The average lump sum is 2½-3 times annual pay, although this benefit can be as high as four times annual pay. In employers' pension schemes, death benefits are normally provided without reference to evidence of good health. This is important as, if you were to seek to insure your own life privately, evidence of your good health would be required.

● **Early-leaver benefits.** The options available to early leavers have been to a large extent lifted out of the area of controversy by recent changes in the law which have increased demands on schemes in regard to the minimum standards which must be observed. Even if you are currently considering whether to join a scheme the early leaver rights could be important to you at a later stage.

● **Your own contributions.** The ideal from your point of view is that your employer should pay the whole cost. However, only about 1 in 5 of scheme members is in this position — reducing to about 1 in 10 if the private sector only is looked at. Where employees do contribute, a rate from 3 to 5 per cent of pensionable pay is most frequently seen in the private sector, whilst in the public sector the rate is often higher than that centring on 6 per cent.

In recent months there has been a slight trend towards a reduction in employee contributions but this has only affected a minority of schemes (1 in 8 in a recent private sector survey). This trend reflects the anxiety of some employers that, in the new era of voluntary membership and competition from personal pensions, employers' own schemes may lose young new members if rates of employee contribution are too high.

Naturally if your own contributions are relatively high, you should expect the benefit pattern to be on the generous side. If the scheme contracts you out of Serps, your national insurance contributions are lower and this will assist you to find the contributions expected from you in the employer's scheme.

Of course, personal circumstances will always be a factor when the offer of scheme membership is being considered. However, most employers' schemes are well thought out packages to help employees provide for their retirement or for dependants in the event of previous death.

If the scheme is properly understood, the significant employer contribution will, for most people, make the offer too good to refuse.

Of course there's the benefits should you die in harness!



A firm must offer a choice

LifeP

it n

FAMILY MONEY

PENSIONS/2



A firm must offer a choice

Being a member of a company scheme does not mean that the private sector is out of bounds. In fact, the options available to supplement the benefits from a company scheme have recently been widened, writes Maria Scott.

Once, if you wanted to top up the benefits from a company scheme, you had to pay into a special Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (AVC) run by the company pension scheme. Not all companies offered an AVC so an employee in a company such as this was stuck.

Now all employers must provide this facility, and there must be a choice between a scheme which is based on pure investment of the members' extra contributions, in the same way as a personal pension works. In the past some organizations offered only earnings-related AVCs.

Further, employees in company schemes have the right to start an AVC outside the company - the Free Standing Additional Voluntary Contributions Scheme (FSAVC).

A number of life insurance companies are now offering FSAVCs. If you choose one of these rather than an employer's AVC you will pay premiums to the insurers rather than have them deducted from your pay. As with a personal pension, tax relief is available at your highest rate.

You can pay up to 15 per cent of earnings into an AVC or FSAVC, less anything paid into your main scheme. The investment options tend to mirror those of personal pensions, deposit-based, with profits or unit linked.

If your company has a pension scheme that is not contracted out of SERPS you can use a type of scheme known as a rebate only personal pension to contract out of the state scheme. You can have your national insurance contributions and the bonus channelled into this but you cannot make any contributions from your own pocket.

A cautionary tale for all the wives

In the new pensions dawn, a man's right to choose may be his widow's passport to poverty. If men taking out the new personal pensions want to provide their potential widows with more than a very basic income they will have to accept a sharp cut in the tax-free lump sum they can take as they retire. This is just what insurers believe they may not do.

In theory all should be well, for personal pensions give widows "protected rights", to quote the technical jargon. In fact, this protection is distinctly flimsy, the calculations on which the rights are based go back to the absolute minimum sum that can go into a pension scheme. This applies whether you transfer over to a personal pension from a company pension scheme, or from the State Earnings Related Pension (SERPS), which is basically a state fall-back system for companies which do not offer a better contract of their own.

What is the least sum which can go into your pension? If you leave SERPS, the government will first pay 6 1/2 per cent on the band of income between £41 and £305 a week into whatever pension scheme you choose.

But Whitehall wants people out of SERPS, and has produced an extra 2 per cent bribe, sweetener or whatever to help them on their way. If you earn more than £305 a week, or more recognizably £15,680 a year, then the basic contributions which will have to go into your pension will be £1,166 a year. The pension you are likely to earn with contributions like this is hardly the stuff of which carefree retirements are made.

Whatever the level of your contributions, the money is invested and builds up into a lump sum, which will provide a pension when you retire.

If you double up the state's contribution, with a matching payment of your own, the government will assume that half the lump sum you build



Personal pensions give widows 'protected rights' but sometimes this protection can be distinctly flimsy

up reflects what you paid in, and half what the government provided.

That is where the rub for the widow comes in. She will receive only half the pension the basic government money provides and not half the pension you actually collect yourself. Of course, you can always provide more, but the new arrangements in personal pensions make it much less attractive to do this than it was under the previous self-employed plans.

When people come to retire with those schemes, they can turn part of the lump sum they have accumulated into cash, and then decide how to split the rest between their own pension and the pension their prospective widow may receive. Their decisions will not affect the cash up front.

This is just where personal pensions are so different. Under the rules you can take

up to 25 per cent of the lump sum you have accumulated in cash. If you want to provide more than basic protection for your wife after you have died, you have to take a cut in your lump sum - as well as in your pension.

How much difference will it make?

The figures depend on your ages. But Legal and General, one of the biggest pension companies in Britain, has worked out figures based on a man of 65, who has a wife five years younger than he is - and has accumulated a round £100,000 in his pension.

If he leaves his wife to fend on her own if he dies first, he can collect a full £25,000 in cash and a pension of £9,669 a year. But if he opts to provide a potential widow's pension of half what he collects, he will not just find that his pension drops to £8,676. His lump

sum will drop by 10 per cent or so to just under £22,500.

At this point, some people are tempted to crow that you can't get out for now, with the air of having discovered an unknown eternal truth. This is certainly true, but the pensions marketing gurus believe that men are far more keen to sacrifice a bit of their potential future pension than to give up some of the lump sum they can take as they retire.

Is not all the concern about potential widows a bit obsessive? Not at all, according to Ron Spill, pensions controller at Legal and General.

"Remember that on average men marry women who are five years younger than they are, and men tend to die four or five years earlier even than their own female contemporaries," he says. "There are always infinitely more widows than widowers, so they need to recognize the fact that they will probably go first, and make provision for it."

Wives do much better under company schemes than under personal pensions.

Most company schemes offer "death in service" benefits, which apply if their husbands die before retirement, as one in four of them will. The widow's pensions they pay out when men die after retirement are not just based on half the sums their former husbands collected. They provide half the total their husbands would have got - if they had not turned any of the potential pension money into cash, which is a far more generous sum.

This is in sharp contrast with the minimal protection for widows that personal pensions provide. The new arrangements coming in now ensure that making decent provision for a potential widow is far less attractive than it used to be, under the self-employed contract. This is hardly the combination from which great pensions dawn are made.

Tom Tickell

Revenue reprieve on house schemes

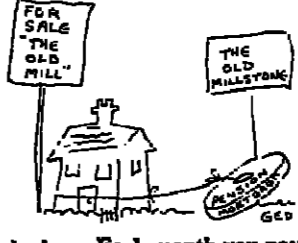
At one point earlier this year it looked as though the pension mortgage might be doomed when personal pensions hit the market, writes Maria Scott.

The Inland Revenue indicated that it might no longer allow companies to market these schemes.

However, it now seems that pension providers will be able to promote the use of a pension to repay a mortgage - but the Revenue will not allow any contract to link itself specifically to a mortgage.

With a pension mortgage you buy a pension policy to build up a fund which at maturity should be large enough to repay your home loan from the tax-free lump sum, and provide an income in retirement as well.

The big attraction is that you get a double dose of tax relief - it is available on the pension premium as well as the interest on up to £30,000 of



the loan. Each month you pay interest to the building society and a separate premium to the pension provider. Because of the tax relief, pension mortgages can cost

little more each month than an ordinary endowment policy.

For a higher-rate taxpayer they may work out cheaper. And some companies are now prepared to let employees link their home loans to the company pension.

But despite the apparent attractions, a pension mortgage does not provide you with a home and a pension for the price of just one.

If you repay your mortgage out of the lump sum accumulated for a pension you have less money to play with when you retire.

And it may not be possible to top up the fund to the level it would have reached had you not repaid your mortgage with it.

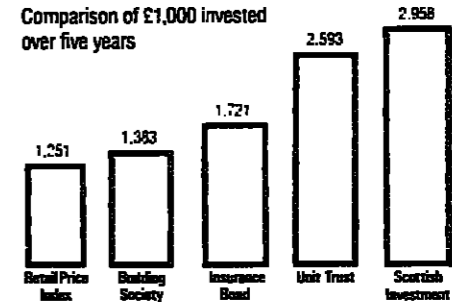
So you should not commit yourself to a pension mortgage before exploring all the effects it could possibly have on your financial position at retirement.

Some direct talking about a new flexible investment scheme

Reputations are hard won, but easily lost. And so it is with wealth, as the Stock Market crash of last October graphically illustrated. At Scottish Investment Trust, we've built a reputation for wealth creation for our stockholders for over 100 years, with assets now worth nearly £500 million.



The plan allows the individual to invest in the Stock Market at low commission rates normally only available to large institutional investors.



As the chart opposite shows, SIT has outperformed other investments such as unit trusts and building society ordinary share accounts. Of course, past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future and share prices can fall as well as rise.

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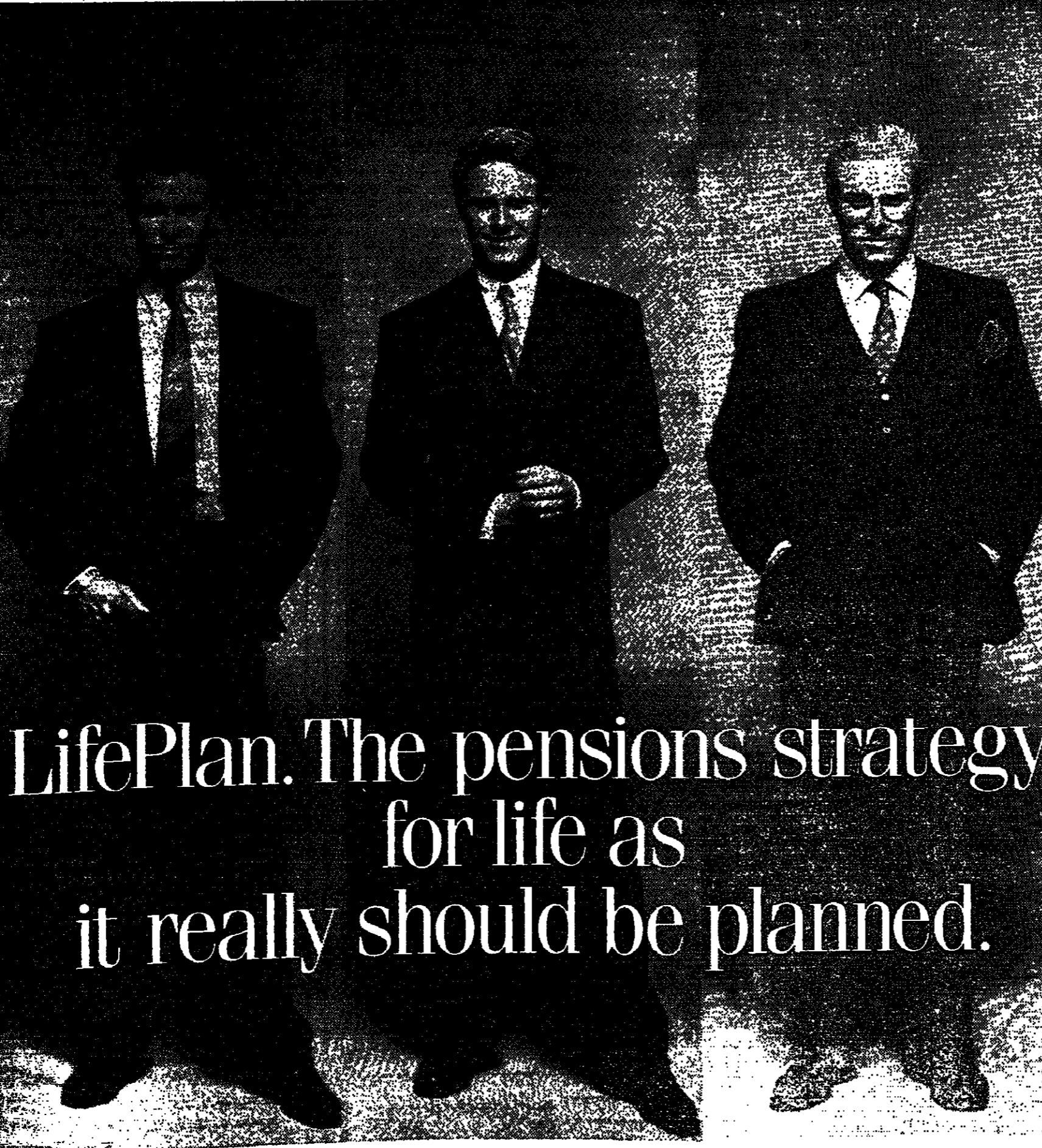


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To: Alan P. Jeffrey, SIT Savings Ltd, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH2 0DH. Please send me a copy of the annual report and a SIT Stockplan brochure and application form.

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This strategy is already available to members of corporate money purchase schemes. Gartmore will be offering LifePlan through Personal Pensions as soon as legislation permits.

As every working person should know, a pension fund is ultimately about protecting one's life-style.

LifePlan is designed to achieve precisely that. To learn how our strategy can help you, contact your pensions adviser. Alternatively telephone Alex Weiland or Alastair Cuming on 01-623 1212

Gartmore For Pensions

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PENSIONS/3

FAMILY MONEY

The new breed of pension providers

ROWAN BARNES-MURPHY

As part of the Government policy of giving greater freedom of choice in pensions, the traditional insurance companies have now been joined by building societies and unit trusts as

places to go for pensions, and a wider range of advisers now regard themselves as the first stopping point in a pensions shopping trip. We asked the newcomers to set out their stalls

Many people are unaware of how their bank could assist them in pension matters. Along with other institutions, banks are now able to join insurance companies in offering a full range of products.

Banks are no strangers to the world of pensions and investments as for many years they have successfully provided self-employed and company pension schemes.

Pension-seekers now have the option to decide for themselves which scheme best suits them.

The leading banks have announced the following schemes and arrangements for personal pension plans:

Barclays Financial Services Ltd has designed a flexible pension plan with options to invest funds in a simple deposit account, in a managed fund of investments or in one of a wide range of unit trusts.

Lloyds' Black Horse Life has launched a personal pension plan and AVC pension plan with the option to invest in some eight different funds.

Midland Personal Financial Services has launched a scheme with an option to invest funds in either a range of tax-exempt Pension Unit Trusts or the Midland Managed Fund. An introductory offer of an additional 5 per cent bonus on contributions

for the first 12 months is available on policies taken out before August 31.

National Westminster, as an independent intermediary, it will offer, through its Pension Planning Service, plans selected from across the wide range now available in the market.

TSB Pensions Ltd offers a personal pension plan with funds invested in its Pensions Managed Fund. The plan can also be used as an AVC to supplement existing pension arrangements.

Remember, it costs you nothing to obtain a selection of quotations, so it pays to shop around.



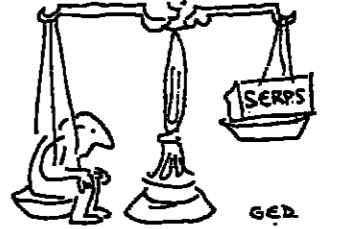
Ignore changes at your peril

The State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (Serps) was set up 10 years ago to provide a top-up to the basic state pension. But the Government has decided that the scheme will become far too costly as we move into the next century with an ageing population, writes Maria Scott.

Benefits are to be wound down from 1998, so anyone retiring after that risks the possibility of retiring on a smaller income than they might get through a personal pension bought from the private sector.

Opinions vary about the precise age at which you should leave Serps. But experts have settled on the region of 45-50 for men and 35-40 for women. So it seems clear that men aged 50 or over now and women beyond 40 certainly should not opt out of Serps, but those in the grey area will need to look carefully at their positions and possibly calculate exactly what Serps would provide before making a decision.

The DHSS has produced a series of leaflets under the title *New Pensions Choices*, explaining the changes more fully. You can get the most basic of these (NP40) by calling Freephone 0800 400472. Two detailed leaflets, one for employees and one for employers (NP41 and 42) are available from: DHSS Leaflets Unit, PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY.



You can also get a personal forecast from the DHSS of your Serps entitlement. This week the department announced a timely improvement to the service - forecasts can be provided in two weeks instead of two to three months.

To get a quote, get application form BR19 from a DHSS office and send it to the RPSA Unit, Room 37D, Central Office, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE98 1YX.

Serps, like most company schemes is based on what you have earned during your working life and it is financed by National Insurance contributions. If you retire before the year 2000 you will get a quarter of the average of your best 25 years' earnings. After that, calculations will be altered so benefit is reduced.

The idea was that Serps would provide something similar to what many companies were already providing for staff. Companies offering schemes which provide benefits at least equal to those from Serps have been able to contract out of the scheme.

If you are one of the people for whom Serps will provide only a meagre benefit on top, you ignore the changes in the pension system at your peril.

Expansion for building societies

By Adrian Coles

Building societies see the new pensions legislation as an opportunity to extend their efficient and popular savings services into a new and important market. A number of societies have already said they will be offering deposit-based personal pension schemes.

These offer investors not only the prospect of earning tax-free interest at around double the rate of inflation from savings built up from tax-free income, but also the promise that the value of the funds invested will never decline. This is an attractive point to people who, following the stock market crash, collectively saw the value of their investments fall by £125 billion between September and December 1987.

However, societies recognize that some people will see the advantages of investing in unit-linked personal pensions. A number of societies have linked with investment management com-

panies that can offer top class fund management facilities while others are investigating the possibility of establishing their own unit-linked schemes.

Whatever the choice the individual makes, building societies will be fighting to become recognized as major providers of personal pensions. With 7,000 branches throughout the country and the results of years of intensive staff training available to customers, it is likely that societies will soon establish a strong position in this new market.

One of societies' great strengths is that they are experienced in running small retail accounts. Their administrative systems are expressly designed to handle this type of business with maximum efficiency. They have around 30 million investors many of whom will be seeking guidance on the new pension arrange-

ments and for whom a building society will be the natural place to seek advice.

For many people with a good employer's scheme a personal pension may not be appropriate, although they may wish to top up their existing contributions with Additional Voluntary Contributions; building societies are among the market leaders in this area. Personal pensions themselves, however, may well appeal most to the self-employed, who currently may have made no, or inadequate, provisions for their retirement.

For those for whom a personal pension represents the best pension deal available, societies offer security, efficient administration and staff expertise, along with a strong record of diversification over the last 18 months.

The author is head of external relations, the Building Societies Association.

Foreign UK Residents

Were you born abroad? YES/NO

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Dianne Gollop, Royal Trust Bank (Jersey) Limited, PO Box 194, Royal Trust House, Colombeville, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Please send me a copy of Royal Trust's specialist financial services leaflet and tax guide for foreign UK residents.

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T 27 (A)

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

No	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
1	+5	+3	+3	+4	+4	+4		
2	+6	+5	+5	+6	+4			
3	+5	+3	+4	+2	+3			
4	+7	+3	+7	+2	+6			
5	+4	+3	+4	+5	+3			
6	+6	+5	+7	+2	+6			
7	+7	+5	+5	+5	+4			
8	+6	+3	+4	+2	+3			
9	+6	+5	+6	+6	+3			
10	+5	+2	+3	+4	+5			
11	+6	+2	+3	+2	+2			
12	+3	+1	+2	+3	+3			
13	+5	+3	+8	+1	+7			
14	+4	+2	+4	+1	+2			
15	+8	+3	+6	+7	+3			
16	+4	+5	+6	+1	+5			
17	+2	+3	+4	+3	+3			
18	+6	+4	+4	+2	+2			
19	+3	+2	+3	+3	+1			
20	+5	+6	+4	+6	+4			
21	+1	+1	+2	+5	+5			
22	+6	+3	+6	+2	+7			
23	+4	+6	+6	+5	+4			
24	+2	+1	+3	+4	+4			
25	+7	+2	+7	+2	+7			
26	+5	+3	+3	+2	+2			
27	+1	+2	+4	+3	+3			
28	+8	+5	+4	+5	+5			
29	+4	+2	+5	+2	+2			
30	+5	+3	+7	+2	+6			
31	+6	+3	+5	+7	+3			
32	+3	+4	+4	+3	+3			
33	+4	+2	+6	+1	+6			
34	+5	+2	+4	+5	+5			
35	+5	+5	+5	+5	+5			
36	+5	+2	+5	+2	+2			
37	+4	+2	+7	+3	+6			
38	+4	+5	+4	+4	+4			
39	+2	+1	+2	+4	+4			
40	+7	+3	+8	+3	+5			
41	+3	+1	+3	+3	+4			
42	+3	+3	+5	+7	+4			
43	+3	+5	+8	+3	+5			
44	+4	+4	+4	+1	+1			

For the first time, consumers will be able to invest directly in unit trusts through a pension plan. Hitherto, the personal pensions market, which until July 1 was open only to the self-employed or non-pensionably employed, has been dominated by insurance companies.

They have offered a range of different pensions, including the recently developed and popular "unit-linked" option.

On July 1, unit trust companies themselves entered the fray. They offer their own portable pensions based on existing, and new, unit trusts.

What benefit does the entry of the unit trust companies offer the consumer?

1. The greater choice which expansion of both the market-place and the number of

The advantages of unit trust schemes

By Tony Smith, chief executive, Unit Trust Association

1. The greater choice which expansion of both the market-place and the number of

pension providers will bring.

2. The opportunity to invest in a broader range of underlying funds - American, Far Eastern, European, as well as UK markets - than the traditional insurance-based pension has been able to provide.

While some may be keen to profit from such sectors, their higher risk levels must be taken into account when considering retirement objectives. In addition, the "new" unit trusts - money markets, property and commodity -

may be add to this choice.

3. Unit trust companies' pensions are likely to have lower and more transparent charging structures than traditional insurance-based ones, although not much detail is yet available on this. The comparative simplicity of unit trust investment should be reflected in unit trust pensions with the charges and expenses likely to be more clearly stated than on existing insurance schemes.

However, the proof of the

pension is in the final result. Unit trust groups, while not able to demonstrate past pension fund performance can certainly show past unit trust performance, which gives some idea as to what future results may be.

For instance, evidence indicates that over the years unit trusts have produced better results for investors than the "managed" funds of the insurance companies.

The number of unit trust entrants to the market is difficult to estimate. Many are subsidiaries of groups already in the marketplace. But groups such as Fidelity, Gartmore and Mercury have already made plain their intentions - and more are likely to emerge over the next few months.

ments fall into two categories. One type is aimed primarily at the mortgage market, the other to provide a comprehensive financial planning service covering both commission and non-commission paying organizations.

It is important to make sure that whoever is consulted treats a pension as an investment and will give the subject the time it deserves. Retirement should be a time free from financial worries, not a time for self-recrimination.

Simon Leney is a partner, and David Chubb financial services manager, at the Sussex-based solicitors Donne Mileham & Haddock.

Solicitors' financial services depart-

How the solicitors can help with advice

By Simon Leney and David Chubb

Most insurance companies offering pension schemes provide facilities for advice and information through their offices and staff, though cynics may question the depth and independence of such advice. The alternative is to consult an independent financial adviser, a route being taken by increasing numbers of the employed and self-employed.

At first sight unlikely, one source of advice becoming increasingly popular with employers and employees alike is the financial department of solicitors' firms. The reasons for such growing popularity are not hard to find. Solicitors' rules require them to disclose and

account for commissions and to remain strictly independent. Their clients can therefore expect advice geared solely to the best interests of those clients.

Specialist financial departments tend to be found in the larger provincial solicitors, whose strengths include a broad client base. This creates demand for in-depth knowledge in a variety of fields, both legal and financial, which has spawned a variety of specialists.

Be warned however - pensions advice requires specialized knowledge. Solicitors' financial services depart-

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SUNDAY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR 1987

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Prospects in the new-look Tour de France are analysed by John Wilcockson

Kelly expected to deliver

Since Bernard Hinault retired from racing two years ago, a similar all-dominating personality has failed to emerge in professional cycling. The past two Tour de France winners, Greg LeMond and Stephen Roche, both have the requisite qualities but knee injuries may prevent them from the start line of the 75th Tour de France in Brittany on Monday.

One candidate to succeed them is Sean Kelly. He has yet to win the Tour de France but has topped the world computer rankings for the past four years and won virtually every other major race.

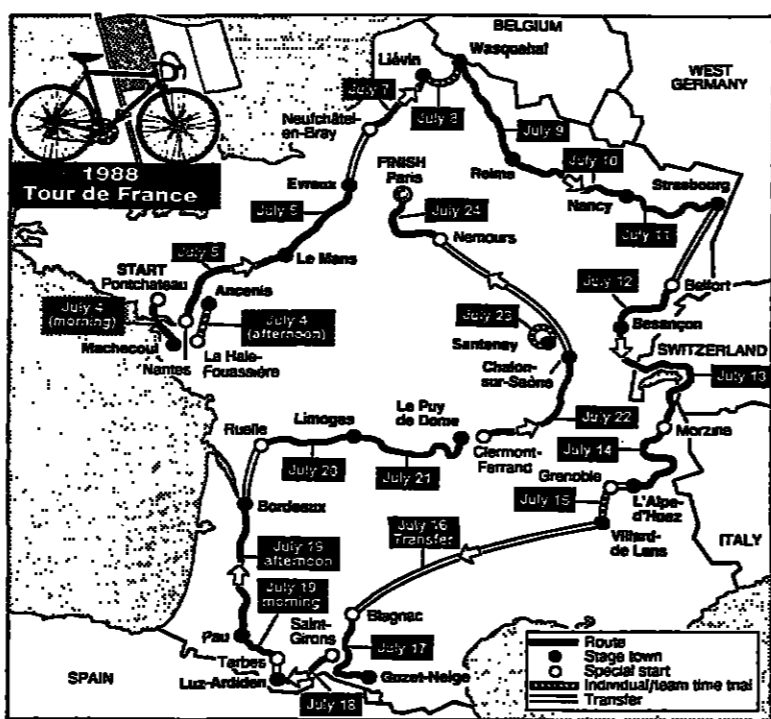
The Irish public has become used to success. After Roche's 1987 Giro d'Italia, Tour de France and world championships grand slam, it was the turn of Kelly to return to the hero's welcome in May after winning the Tour of Spain, the *Vuelta*.

This will be Kelly's tenth Tour de France. He had a steadily improving record up to his fourth place in 1985, but a crash prevented him starting in 1986 and forced him out of the race last year. On his day he is the best time trialist and one of the better climbers; and the Spanish success gave credence to Kelly's belief that he is now ready, at age 32, to win the Tour de France.

In Spain, he maintained contact with the best climbers on the mountain stages, greatly assisted by his team-mate, Eric Caritoux, the new champion of France, and an emphatic win in the closing 20-mile time trial confirmed his overall success.

The three-week, 2,130-mile Tour of Spain also showed that Kelly's team, Kas, is better structured this year with the recruitment of Caritoux, Martin Earley, of Ireland, and Guido Van Calster, of Belgium, all of whom can be operative in the mountain stages, while the Portuguese rider, Acacio Da Silva, is also on top form.

After winning in Spain, Kelly showed great self-discipline in taking two weeks' rest before tackling the 10-day Tour of Switzerland, where he gradually returned to his best form.



finishing sixteenth after helping Da Silva claim third place overall.

Kelly is happier with the shorter, 21-day structure of the Tour de France this year. "It suits me better than usual," he said, "because there are fewer stages that include multiple mountain passes. Uphill time trials in the Alps also suit me."

Looking at the opposition, Kelly considers last year's runners-up, Pedro Delgado, of Spain, and Jean-Francois Bernard, of France, his chief rivals. "But," he pointed out, "my main enemy could be hot weather, which I don't support as well as my opponents."

Besides Kelly, Delgado and Bernard, the main contenders are expected to be the recent Giro d'Italia winner, Andy Hampsten, of the United States, and his runners-up,

Eric Brukkink, of the Netherlands, and Urs Zimmermann, of Switzerland. Also in with a chance are the French riders, Laurent Fignon and Charly Mottet, Luis Herrera, of Colombia, Federico Echave, of Spain, and a back-to-form Robert Millar.

Millar, aged 29, of Scotland, has been dogged by bad luck this season. He suffered three crashes in the Tour of Spain, yet finished sixth, only three minutes behind Kelly; a badly timed puncture cost him victory at the mountainous Route du Sud in France; and last week he lost the Arrate three-day race in Spain only on points.

When he began his professional career in 1980, Millar was regarded only as a climber because of his small build. But during the past three years he has vastly improved his time-trial ability, which makes him a contender

for the podium in this year's Tour. Millar appears at ease in the French team. Fagor, despite the ups and downs caused by the indisposition of the team leader, Roche. The Scot has at his side his fellow-Britons, Sean Yates and Malcolm Elliott, both of whom could win a stage of the tour, while another team-mate, Eddy Schepers, of Belgium, is the man who helped Roche to victory 12 months ago.

If he is to finish in the top three, Millar will have to limit his losses on the opening two time trials — the team event on the opening day and the longer individual test in northern France next Friday.

These two stages will also show the relative strength of the time-trial specialists, Bernard, Brukkink, Mottet and Kelly, and indicate the ambitions of the top climbers, Hampsten, Herrera, Delgado and Zimmermann. The biggest moment mark hangs over Fignon — the Tour winner in 1983 and 1984 — who has been dogged by crashes for the past two months after winning the Milan-San Remo classic in March.

Although new international regulations have limited the 75th Tour de France to 20 days of racing with a daily average of only 100 miles (compared with 114 miles last year), the race is expected to be more intense than ever.

The key to victory is the six-day section, July 13 to 18, which comprises the Alpi stages, the uphill time trial at Villalanza Lancia, a 30-mile transfer on the rest day, and two stages in the Pyrenees. More than 50,000 feet climbing in five days of racing should see the best climbers challenging Kelly for the yellow jersey.

This new look Tour de France even has a surprise at the finish because the traditional circuit around the Champs-Élysées in Paris is being reversed this year, to clockwise, with the stands being moved to the Place de la Concorde. This will mean a more spectacular, downhill sprint finish, with the Arc de Triomphe as the backdrop.

RACING

Vintage Eddery steals a march on Rambo Dancer

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

The final state of the going for this afternoon's Coral-Eclipse Stakes at Sandown remains uncertain, yesterday when the times for two competitive handicaps were over four seconds slower than standard.

After driving Rambo Dancer to a short-head win over Pelorus in the £30,000 Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club Trophy, Pat Eddery said: "It is perfect from the moment they are just making a nice print. But one more shower and it will be soft."

The afternoon's feature was a marvellous race to watch. Rambo Dancer, previously disappointed at Ascot, had been unlucky in running when just beaten by Vouchsafe at Ascot. But on this occasion, Eddery was well placed as he tracked Old Rod and Rana Pratap into the straight.

The moment of truth came when Rambo Dancer set sail for home just inside the two-furlong marker. Ghandhvan, the 5-2 favourite, was soon struggling and eventually weakened to finish last. Bruce Raymond then launched a strong attack on Pelorus but Eddery was seen at his strongest as he brought his total for the season to 75.

This win started a good afternoon for Michael Stoute, as the trainer then went on to complete a long-range 29-1 double when Walter Swinburn rode Zaffaran to victory in the Johnny Osborne Handicap at Haydock.

The seven-furlong Wayfaring Stakes was another strongly run affair and as Roger Wernham brought Shabazz storming up the hill to beat Fillo D'Esprit by a length, the 13 runners had covered the distance in 1min 31.75secs, 4.5secs slower than standard.

The 32-year-old Wernham, a French-Nicholson product, has been struggling to re-establish himself since returning from Hong Kong six years ago. "Things are going a bit better now. I have had six winners so far. But you need to win on good horses at places like Sandown to get back."

This afternoon's big race was certainly uppermost in Paul Cole's mind. And after Richard Quinn had won the GRE Fillies Stakes on Intabehn, the Whatcombe trainer said: "It is all right at the moment for Broken Hearted. But if it comes off, I'll definitely take him out as he is useless in those conditions."

Cole also had news of Inzun, who was beaten a short head by Kahyasi in last Sunday's Irish Derby. The Great Voltaire Stakes at York and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe are now his targets. He hasn't entered in the

Arc originally, so will have to pay the £30,000 supplementary fee.

Tony Cruz, who has ridden Triptych to seven wins from 11 mounts on Bianco's record-breaking mare, is likely to be in the saddle this afternoon, as Indian Skimmer now looks certain to run. And after winning the last race on Daily Sport Soon, the former champion jockey of Hong Kong said: "There is no sting in the ground at all and it is really good. Triptych is a real star, and the more rain the better."

Having been one of the presidents of the Mtofo fan club all week, I have no intention of deserting Alice Stewart. Eddy-year-old in his attempt to become the first dual winner of the Eclipse for over 60 years. But the rain was pelted down after racing yesterday. The going was already on the slow side of good.

Louis Romanet, director general of the French Jockey Club (Societe d'Encouragement), is confident that French racing satellite transmissions will be available to be shown in British betting shops by the end of September.

Stian Mellor's Lean Ar Aghaidh, who won last year's Whitbread Gold Cup, is unlikely to race again after striking a tendon in this season's Sandown race.

Bint Pasha has sporting chance at Saint-Cloud

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Paris

Bint Pasha is the lone English challenger for tomorrow's Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud. The group race, worth £160,335 to the winner, has attracted a field of 10, and has an open look about it.

A gutsy win in the Prix Vermeille was the highlight of Bint Pasha's three-year-old career, and although she could finish only a well-beaten fourth behind Triptych in the Coronation Cup on her seasonal re-appearance, she will strip fitter here.

The pick of the other home-trained opponents will be Andre Fakre's Village Star, Boyatino and Something True, but the biggest danger to Bint Pasha may be the only three-year-old in the race, 5-1 favourite, the trained Frankly Perfect, partnered by Pat Eddery.

Today at Evry, Ron Sheather sends Moogie (Alfred Gilbert) for the £20,315 Prix Chavo over nine furlongs. A 10-1 favourite, a winner last year at Ascot, the Coronation Stakes, suggests Moogie has some prospects here.

Lutzan (Trevor Rogers) and Captain Holly (Geoff Baxter) travel to Hamburg for today's group three De Kuyper Sprinter-Prix over seven furlongs.

GRAND PRIX DE SAINT-CLOUD (Group 1, £160,335; 1m 40) (10 runners)
Going soft
Bint Pasha (5) (GB) ridden by F Head; Trns Sport 7-9 (D) Boud; Village Star 4-9 (R) Fakre; Boyatino 4-9 (E) Leguy; Village Star 5-9 (C) Anoussim; Fakre 4-9 (A) Budo; River Memories 4-9 (S) Couter; Something True 4-9 (A) Cud; Bint Pasha 5-1 (F) Galt; Frankly Perfect 5-9 (P) Eddy.
5-2 Saint Andrews, 4-1 River Memories and Village Star (couple), 5-1 Frankly Perfect, 1-1 Village Star, 2-1 Fakre.

Walter Swinburn not recognized

Walter Swinburn arrived at Haydock Park yesterday without his jockey's badge and was denied entry by an attendant until his identity was sorted out.

The trouble only lasted a few minutes. I was just not recognized by the official."

Halcyon Days started 2-1 on for the Steve Donoghue Maiden Stakes, and the colt, carrying Sheikh Mohammed's colours, was likely to race again after striking a tendon in this season's Sandown race.

Apple Rings, quoted at 25-1 for the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood, is an unlikely runner in the £100,000 Lanes End Farm International Stakes (1m) at Phoenix Park today. Vincent O'Brien's Carwent heads the home defence.



SEAN KELLY, Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland. Team: Kas. Age: 32.

Previous Tour performances: 14th, 38th, 29th, 48th, 13th, 7th, 5th, 4th. Kelly is the world No. 1 and a fine all-rounder. He is the local favourite, but only if he can overcome his phobia of the Alpe d'Huez, the stage finish climb on July 14, that has caused his downfall in previous years.



ANDY HAMPSTEN, Boulder, Colorado, United States. Team: 7-Eleven. Age: 26.

Previous Tour performances: 4th, 16th. The American displayed unexpected qualities to win the Giro d'Italia in June bringing improved time-trial strength and stamina to his climbing skills. Help from his team-mate, Raul Alcalá, of Mexico, should prove invaluable.



JEAN-FRANCOIS BERNARD, Nevers, France. Team: Toshiba. Age: 26.

Previous Tour performances: 12th, 3rd. Bernard has yet to attain the consistency of a Tour winner, and his climbing ability is in question. But his time trial strength and the inspiration he gains riding for his own public could again earn him the runner's-up berth.

Night and day ride on soup

By Peter Bryan

Ian Dow sets off this morning on the most notorious of cycling's "treadmills" when he defends his national 24-hour time trial championship and also attempts to set a mileage record.

He has to beat Roy Cromack's 507 miles, ridden in 1969, which he came close to last year when winning his third all-day title. His ride starts near Ely and, stopping only twice during his 24 hours in the saddle, he will be putting on extra clothes for the night hours and takes them off soon after dawn. Dow's target will be in the region of 512 miles.

Much depends on the weather conditions of course," he said yesterday. "Ideally, humidity should be low, there should be a light wind and no rain." The latter is important to Dow, who wears spectacles.

His training this season has been similar to previous years, but more of it, including the use of weights. In the last month, he has stepped up his weekly mileage from 350 to 400.

High mileage is not in itself important," he says, "it is the quality of training miles that helps produce fitness." He knows that his "wall" will be faced between 5 and 7 o'clock tomorrow morning, when mentally and physically he will be at low ebb. But his previous rides have shown him to recuperate well and almost get back to his original starting speed.

Throughout his day and night ride he will be taking only soup for nourishment and his helpers will have a selection of 20 tins from which to feed him. Dow could well collect two records by tomorrow morning if he retains his title he will be the first to win the championship in four successive years. Even if he were not to beat Cromack's 19-year-old British record but still exceed 500 miles, that would be another "first" in cycling history. Other than Cromack and Dow, only John Woodburn has covered more than 500 miles in 24 hours. He rode 505.47 miles in 1980.



ROBERT MILLAR, Glasgow. Team: Fagor. Age: 29.

Previous Tour performances: 14th, 4th, 11th, 19th. The shorter Tour with its four mountain-top finishes should suit Millar particularly as he has improved time-trial ability and a team strong enough to take him safely through the stages that precede the Alps.



CHARLY MOTTE, Saltanches, France. Team: Systeme U. Age: 25.

Previous Tour performances: 38th, 16th. Mottet and his team-mate, Laurent Fignon, will be heavily marked and will have to use their tactical skills to gain time before the mountains. Mottet's time-trial strength makes him a stronger contender than Fignon.



URS ZIMMERMANN, Muhlendorf, Switzerland. Team: Carrera. Age: 26.

Previous Tour performances: 58th, 3rd. Zimmermann's climbing strength made him one of Hampsten's biggest challengers at the recent Giro, but there are doubts about his ability to finish two long Tours in two months. His Italian team could also prove a problem.

RUGBY UNION

All Blacks vulnerable

Australians believe

Sydney (Reuter) — Australia are confident they can inflict the first defeat on the All Blacks in 14 internationals here tomorrow, New Zealand, regarded as virtually invincible when they arrived in Australia last month after running up more than 100 points in two home internationals against Wales, have performed below their normal high standard in four matches so far.

This has encouraged Australia, fresh from their series win over England, to believe that they can become the first side to beat the All Blacks since they won last year's inaugural World Cup.

"The team is extremely confident and ready for anything," the Australian full back, Andrew Leeds, said. "We are in no way intimidated by the All Blacks." The New Zealand coach, Alex Wyllie, has expressed concern over his side's performances so far. "In the internationals against Wales we didn't have any pressure put on us at any stage, whereas now the pressure is being applied. We've got to learn to take it a bit better than we have been doing."

Australian prospects have been boosted further by the absence of the New Zealand flanker, Michael Jones, who refuses to play on Sundays because of his religious beliefs.

MOTOR CYCLING

Schwantz not slowed by rain or injury

Francherchamps (AFP) — Kevin Schwantz, the American, won the Dutch grand prix last weekend despite fractured bones in both feet, came through the rain to set the fastest time in yesterday's first practice here for the Belgian grand prix.

The American, who suffered the injuries at Assen after falling in practice there, was just over a second faster on his Suzuki than the Yamaha ridden by Christian Sarron, of France.

Eddie Lawson, the world championship leader, was third quickest but the reigning champion, Wayne Gardner, fresh from his first win of the season in The Netherlands, had handling problems in the heavy rain and was only ninth fastest. Gardner had felt the problems with his hard-handling Honda bike were finally over. But he shook his head when he drove into the pits after practice.

The Francherchamps track, renovated after the riders boycotted it last year because they feared for their safety, was still dry when the reigning 250 cc world champion, Anton Mang, of West Germany, set the best practice time.

BEIJING GRAND PRIX: First practice: 500 cc: 1. K Schwantz (USA), Suzuki, 2min 02.77sec (average 148.7km/h); 2. C Sarron (FR), Yamaha, 2:51.36; 3. E Lawson (USA), Yamaha, 2:52.33; 4. R Krumpholtz (GER), Honda, 2:57.23; 5. P Chin (GB), Honda, 2:57.32; 6. R McLane (GB), Suzuki, 2:58.40.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Head-hunting banned as sides compromise

From Keith Macklin, Sydney

Cut out the head-hunting tactics — this will be the order given to both Australian and Great Britain teams in the third international at Sydney Football Stadium next Saturday.

Yesterday, at a meeting between managers and coaches of both teams, the Australians retreated from their tough stance and accepted a compromise that both sides, and not just Britain, had been guilty of "head-hunting" in the second international at Brisbane, which was won by Australia 34-14 to clinch the series.

David Howes, the Great Britain business manager, said: "It was a short and amicable meeting, and it was agreed that both coaches will warn their teams against high tackling and foul play before they take the field. We want to see a hard but clean and competitive match."

The Lions have three matches in seven days as they bring to an end the disappointing Australian tour, which has seen them lose the first two internationals, after having had to send home injured players constantly replacing them with hastily contacted reserves from Britain. Tomorrow, Great Britain go to Orange to play Western

Sandown Park

Going: good
1.25 (1m 20) GANAM (M Roberts, 2-1) R 2-1; 2. Red Rocks (M Roberts, 6-1) R 2-1; 3. Sharp Justice (P Robinson, 4-1) ALSO RAN: 4. Red Rocks (M Roberts, 6-1) R 2-1; 5. Sharp Justice (P Robinson, 4-1) R 2-1; 6. Red Rocks (M Roberts, 6-1) R 2-1; 7. Sharp Justice (P Robinson, 4-1) R 2-1; 8. Red Rocks (M Roberts, 6-1) R 2-1; 9. Sharp Justice (P Robinson, 4-1) R 2-1; 10. Red Rocks (M Roberts, 6-1) R 2-1.

Haydock Park

Going: firm; good to firm (straight)
2.15 (1m 10) HALCYON DAVIS (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 3. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 4. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 5. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 6. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 7. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 8. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 9. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1; 10. Halcyon Davis (R Cockburn, 2-1) R 2-1.

Yesterday's results

Epsomville, 10m 251, 7, 194, 11, sh hd, J Barry at Cockermouth. Time: £10.30, £2.40, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20, £1.20.

Thursday's late details

Haydock Park

Going: good (firm first three races)
7.30 (1m 40) 1. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 2. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 3. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 4. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 5. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 6. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 7. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 8. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 9. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1; 10. Top Class (G Causton, 6-1) R 2-1.

Soviet Star

The highest class miler Soviet Star, trained by Andre Fabre, was yesterday confirmed as a runner in next Thursday's Norcross July Cup (6f) at Newmarket. Giffaldi, fourth to Chillingham in the King's Stand Stakes Royal Ascot and Orick's Ball also challenge from France.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Mtoto poised for Eclipse encore

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

On what should be perfect ground, Mtoto can become the first horse since Polyphontes in 1925 to win the Coral-Eclipse Stakes twice at Sandown Park today.

But his task will not be easy as he has only a neck and 2lb in hand of Broken Hearted judged on their memorabilia race for the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot last month.

Indian Skimmer and Triptych also have to be considered now that there has been sufficient rain at the Escher track to take the sting out of the ground.

In the corresponding race 12 months ago, Mtoto finished 2 1/4 lengths in front of Triptych, whose best races have been on ground softer than it is at present.

Likewise, Indian Skimmer could well do with it being softer still. Also, a strict interpretation of his Brigadier Gerard Stakes form with Highland Chieftain leaves her with a hit to find as Highland Chieftain was subsequently beaten two lengths by Mtoto and Broken Hearted at Ascot.

So unless the ground deteriorates considerably in the run-up to the race, I still believe that we will be treated to a thrilling replay of that Ascot epic with Mtoto just managing to hold Broken Hearted at bay.

Wrongly or right, I do not

fancy any of the three-year-olds against older horses of this calibre. And Shady Heights should not be good enough either.

With the starting stalls positioned on the stand side of the sprint course, neither of those fast filices, Princess Athena nor Silver Fling, had been done any favours by the draw.

From stalls 13 and 14, respectively, they are condemned to racing up the middle of the course on the outside of the entire field, and that will be all against them.

Interestingly, there was only a head between them when they met at Kempton in the spring. In the meantime, both have excelled in defeat. Princess Athena failed by a neck to give Proud And Keen 12lb at Ascot, while Silver Fling failed by half a length to give Cadeaux Genereux rather more at York.

If, as I suspect, the draw has conspired against them now, Young Hal and Carol's Treasure could easily be the two to benefit with Young Hal being just preferred from stall No 6 on the strength of that fine run at Ascot where he finished only a short head behind Princess Athena, albeit when receiving 4lb.

In the Sandown EBF Ltd Handicap, Governmentship, the shock winner of the Royal Hunt Cup at Ascot, will excel

if he can give 15lb to Bean Sher, who beat Kingsfold Flame by a comfortable three lengths at York last month.

At Haydock, a royal victory in the Lancashire Oaks looks very much on the cards with Highbrew fancied to improve upon her second to Miss Boniface in the Ribblesdale Stakes. On that running, she has nothing to fear from Duchess Best or Sailor's Mate.

Earlier in the day, her stable companion Vouchsafe will attempt to follow his Bessborough Stakes victory with another in the Old Newton Cup. However, if there is any justice this will surely be won by De De Chayvre, who is, to all intents and purposes, a winner without a penalty.

He had the King George V Handicap in safekeeping at Royal Ascot, but swerved so suddenly in the last furlong that Greville Starkey had no chance of staying aboard.

Today's nap, though, is entrusted to Richard Hills on Zakhrir (4.15) who impressed me greatly when making a winning debut at Ascot a fortnight ago.

In the meantime, his form has had a boost when the third horse, Elzaem, won next time out at Newbury.



Mtoto and Michael Roberts, who are chasing their second consecutive Eclipse success at Sandown today

SANDOWN PARK

- By Mandarin**
- 2.15 Gallieri
 - 2.50 Faux Pavilion
 - 3.20 Young Hal
 - 4.05 Mtoto
 - 4.40 Bean Sher
 - 5.10 High Velocity
 - 5.45 Tildebo
- By Our Newmarket Correspondent**
- 2.15 Gallieri
 - 2.50 Faux Pavilion
 - 3.20 Frozen Flower
 - 4.05 Mtoto
 - 4.40 Bean Sher
 - 5.10 Music Review
 - 5.45 Vague Melody

Michael Seely's selection: 4.05 MTOTO (nap).

Going: good Draw: 5f, low numbers best (stalls stands side)

- 2.15 EBF PADDOCK MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts & geldings: £3,448; 7f) (11 runners)**
- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 102 (5) | CARNIVAL FEYER (T Farnell) R Harrison 9-0 | L Jones |
| 103 (1) | CECILIANO (R Beardon) P Kelloway 9-0 | A Cruz |
| 104 (1) | DOCTOR FELL (Shahin Mohammed) J Bolding 9-0 | T Ives |
| 105 (7) | ELMOND (Mrs G C Smith) R Handcock 9-0 | C Butler |
| 107 (5) | FREEDOM (C J Thomas) D Thoms 9-0 | M Roberts |
| 108 (5) | FRIENDLY COAST (R Thoms) D Thoms 9-0 | M Roberts |
| 109 (8) | GALLIARI (C S George) H Cecil 9-0 | S Causton |
| 112 (7) | ROCKY ROAD (Mrs G C Smith) R Handcock 9-0 | C Butler |
| 114 (2) | 2 SPITFIRE (R E A Burt) L C Nelson 9-0 | A Kibbey |
| 115 (10) | TRIPPLICATE (Shahin Mohammed) J Bolding 9-0 | T Ives |
| 116 (8) | 3 ZEPHAGUS (C M Lanning) C Brittain 9-0 | W Carson |

1987: SUNKAM 9-0 A Cruz (9-1) N Callaghan 11 ran

- 2.58 COMMONWEALTH HANDICAP (27,786; 2m) (10 runners)**
- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 202 (5) | 1836-5 DUMPHY'S SPECIAL (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 203 (10) | 3420651 ANJULIAN (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 204 (8) | 11-5896 FURIOUS (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 207 (7) | 10-4112 BURNING (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 208 (10) | 004420 TRAPEZE ARTIST (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 210 (5) | 10-0280 SUN STREET (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 211 (4) | 4-32 FINE AND OLD (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 212 (7) | 20-2282 BURNING (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 214 (2) | 023222 SAIL CAROL (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 215 (7) | 33-000 MR MOSS (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

1987: ACTORIAN 4-9-4 Pat Eddy (9-1) J Jenkins 10 ran

- 3.20 TRAFALGAR HOUSE SPRINT STAKES (Listed race: £11,975; 5f) (14 runners)**
- | | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 301 (4) | 0-04000 SHINGING STEVEN (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 302 (7) | 0-04000 POLYVOCAL (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 303 (2) | 20-0108 LA PETITE MOUSSE (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 305 (8) | 20-424 CAROL'S TREASURE (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 307 (12) | 100-013 DURHAM PLACE (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 308 (7) | 10-0400 WHERRY (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 310 (11) | 10-0400 LOWELL (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 311 (5) | 10-1229 DEALERS WHEELS (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 312 (10) | 14-1133 POTLE (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 314 (8) | 10-0400 HAL (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 315 (3) | 10-0400 FROZEN FLOWER (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 316 (13) | 110-122 PRINCESS ATHENA (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 317 (4) | 1-0222 SILVER FLING (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

1987: PERON 5-8-3 Pat Eddy (10-0) G Lewis 9 ran

- FORM**
- SHINGING STEVEN (P J Egan) 30-10 ran with PRINCESS ATHENA (P J Egan) 4-9-10 and POLLYVOCAL (P J Egan) 9-10.
- POLYVOCAL (P J Egan) 30-10 ran with KNEED (P J Egan) at Leopardstown (9-11), £4,425; good, June 12, 6 ran.
- CAROL'S TREASURE (P J Egan) 30-10 ran with HANDEMAINE (P J Egan) at Sandown (25-26), £3,701; good May 12.
- 30, 10 ran with PRINCESS ATHENA (P J Egan) 4-9-10 and POLLYVOCAL (P J Egan) 9-10.
- PRINCESS ATHENA (P J Egan) neck 2nd to Proud And Keen (P J Egan) at Ascot (6-1), £3,448; firm, June 13, 18 ran with YOUNG HAL (P J Egan) 3-0 a short head 3rd.
- SILVER FLING (P J Egan) 5-1 2nd to Cadeaux Genereux (P J Egan) at York (18-19), £2,287; good to firm, June 11, 10 ran.
- Selection: CAROL'S TREASURE

HAYDOCK PARK

- By Mandarin**
- 2.00 Blissful Kingdom
 - 2.30 Favourite Flower
 - 3.05 De De Chayvre
 - 3.40 Highbrew
 - 4.15 ZAKHRIR (nap)
 - 4.50 Miss Sarjane
- By Our Newmarket Correspondent**
- 2.00 Troism
 - 2.30 Favourite Flower
 - 3.05 Joseph
 - 3.40 Princess Genista
 - 4.15 ZAKHRIR (nap)
 - 4.50

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 ILE DE CHYVRE.

Going: firm (good to firm in straight) Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best

- 2.0 JOHN MURRAY & SONS CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,423; 1m 2f) (12 runners)**
- | | | |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 1 (2) | 14-040 GENTLEMAN'S HG (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 2 (7) | 0-0400 BLUESKY (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 3 (10) | 1-0222 STAFF CASE (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 4 (8) | 0-020 TRISH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 5 (1) | 10-0400 MANDOOD (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 6 (3) | 4-32 ST LOUIS BLOSSOM (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 7 (9) | 0-0400 JUBAL (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 8 (4) | 4-6341 FORBES SPIRIT (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 9 (12) | 0-0400 BRILLIANT SHARP (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 10 (2) | 10-0400 VINTAGE VA (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 11 (5) | 0-0400 MANDOOD (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 12 (1) | 0-0400 MANDOOD (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

1987: FAHAD 8-7 J Red 4-1 R Johnson Houghton 7 ran

- 2.30 EBF JULY MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,244; 6f) (6 runners)**
- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 1 (2) | 14-040 BELLEVUE (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 2 (8) | DREAMA QUEEN (R Jones) A Lee 8-11 | W Ryan |
| 3 (1) | FAVOURITE FLOWER (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 4 (1) | 10-0400 MADLEY (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 5 (1) | 10-0400 MADLEY (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 6 (1) | 10-0400 MADLEY (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

1987: HODGINS 8-1 R Cochrane (8-1) R Shearer 5 ran

- 3.5 OLD NEWTON CUP (Handicap: £17,504; 1m 4f) (9 runners)**
- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 1 (4) | 110-340 ROUSHAY 25 (D J G) (H Agra Khan) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-10 | W Ryan |
| 2 (1) | 21231 30 HORN TENSION 25 (D J G) (H Agra Khan) R Johnson Houghton 4-9-10 | W Ryan |
| 3 (1) | 20-2001 VOUCHSAFE 17 (Sail & Co Ltd) C Brown 4-9-10 | G Starkey |
| 4 (1) | 0-0400 FRIEDRICH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 5 (1) | 0-0400 FRIEDRICH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 6 (1) | 0-0400 FRIEDRICH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 7 (1) | 0-0400 FRIEDRICH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 8 (1) | 0-0400 FRIEDRICH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 9 (1) | 0-0400 FRIEDRICH (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

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4.5 CORAL-ECLIPSE STAKES (Group 1: £128,733; 1m 2f) (8 runners)

- | | | |
|---------|--|-----------|
| 501 (8) | 30-1044 VAGUE SHOT 21 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 502 (8) | 0-0214 SHARBLACK 24 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 503 (4) | 0-0201 GOVERNORSHIP 17 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 505 (5) | 23-420 VALDITE 27 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 506 (7) | 31-010 HOY 15 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 508 (4) | 0-04-213 YANKEE 21 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 509 (2) | 0-0202 KINGSPY 21 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 511 (7) | 0-0401 BEAT SHIR 21 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 512 (2) | 0-0201 START-RITE 10 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

Long handicap: Kingsfold Flame 7-13, Beau-Sher 7-12, Start-Rite 7-12, Yabeh, 12-1 Hoy, 14-1 Valdite, 16-1 Starblack.

1987: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM

- VAGUE SHOT (P J Egan) 2-1 4th to Waab (P J Egan) at Epsom (1m 110yds) group 2, £1888; good, June 1, 8 ran.
- SHARBLACK (P J Egan) best effort when 3rd winner from Lady Laz (P J Egan) at York (1m 10yds) group 2, £275; good to firm, May 14, 16 ran.
- GOVERNORSHIP (P J Egan) neck winner from Ghadban (P J Egan) at Ascot (1m 10yds) group 2, £2272; firm, June 15, 24th with START-RITE (P J Egan) 3rd.
- YANKEE (P J Egan) 1st winner from Pharaoh Blue (P J Egan) at Newbury (1m 10yds) group 2, £275; good to firm, May 14, 16 ran.
- BEAU-SHER (P J Egan) 3rd winner from KINGSFOLD FLAME (P J Egan) at York (1m 4f) group 2, £788; good to firm, June 11, 9 ran.
- START-RITE (P J Egan) head winner from Golden Bear (P J Egan) at Roper (1m 10yds) group 2, £256; firm, June 2, 9 ran.
- HOY (P J Egan) short head winner from Early Cal (P J Egan) at Sandown (1m 10yds) group 2, £256; firm, June 2, 9 ran.

5.10 VICTORIA AMATEUR TURF CLUB HANDICAP (23,957; 5f) (8 runners)

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|
| 601 (3) | 1-0120 CRONK'S QUALITY 15 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 602 (2) | 320-019 DUCK FLURRY 21 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 604 (8) | 410-000 MICRO LOVE 31 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 606 (7) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 608 (8) | 100-044 NO BEATING HEART 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 613 (4) | 0-0000 MUSIC REVIEW 15 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 615 (5) | 0-0400 CRETE CARRO 19 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 616 (7) | 0-0202 HIGH WELCOTE 14 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

Long handicap: Crank's Quality, 9-2 No Beating Heart, 5-1 Duck Flurry, 11-2 High Velocity, 5-1 Micro Love, 8-1 Friday Park, 10-1 Music Review, 12-1 Crete Carro.

1987: (7) VAMSDO 4-9-3 Pat Eddy (15-2) W Hastings-Bass 11 ran

5.45 ANNIVERSARY HANDICAP (23,556; 1m 3f) (12 runners)

- | | | |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 4 (9) | 0-0422 VAGUE SHOT 21 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 5 (1) | 4-0002 THOUERIAN 35 (Hemond St J) Dunlop 4-9-10 | W Carson |
| 6 (4) | 20-030 FALDINGHAM LIGHT 10 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 7 (1) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 8 (1) | 0-0202 ACT OF TREASON 23 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 9 (2) | 30-013 IT'S VARADAN 14 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 10 (1) | 0-0202 YAMRAH 9 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 11 (7) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 12 (1) | 0-0401 HOLLISTON 15 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 13 (2) | 0-0000 HELLO SMITHY 34 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 14 (1) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 15 (1) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 16 (1) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

Long handicap: It's Varadan, 9-2 No Beating Heart, 5-1 Duck Flurry, 8-1 Holliston, 10-1 Hello Smithy, Tildebo, 12-1 Faldingham Light, 14-1 Bronze Runner, 18-1 Act Of Treason, 20-1 Others.

1987: HENDON LIGHT OF SUMMER 6-9 R Fox (20-1) D Arbuthnot 15 ran

Course specialists

- | TRAINERS | Winners | Runners | Per cent | JOCKEYS | Winners | Rides | Per cent |
|------------|---------|---------|----------|-------------|---------|-------|----------|
| A Stewart | 6 | 18 | 33.3 | R Cochrane | 18 | 98 | 18.4 |
| D J Gorman | 17 | 65 | 26.2 | A Kimberley | 17 | 174 | 9.8 |
| G Harwood | 12 | 69 | 17.4 | T Quinn | 26 | 159 | 16.5 |
| H Cecil | 17 | 49 | 34.7 | T Quinn | 14 | 86 | 16.3 |
| R Jones | 4 | 14 | 28.6 | J Lewis | 10 | 59 | 16.9 |
| D Thom | 2 | 20 | 10.0 | M Roberts | 9 | 65 | 13.8 |

(Not including yesterday's results)

Guide to our in-line racecard

- 103 (12) 0-0422 GOOD TIMES 74 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10
- Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F - fall, P - pulled up, U - unsaddled without owner's consent, W - withdrawn, B - broken, D - disqualified). Horse's name, days since last outing. J - jockey, H - hood, E - eyeside, C - course plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.40 LANCASHIRE OAKS (Group 1: 3-Y-O fillies: £25,461; 1m 4f) (10 runners)

- | | | |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 1 (4) | 14-040 ANDALUSIA 24 (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 2 (8) | 0-0212 GOVERNORSHIP 17 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 3 (1) | 21-42 HORN TENSION 25 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 4 (1) | 0-041-30 PRINCESS GENISTA 28 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 5 (7) | 0-0202 RAINBOW PALMER 22 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 6 (1) | 0-041-30 PRINCESS GENISTA 28 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 7 (1) | 0-041-30 PRINCESS GENISTA 28 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 8 (1) | 0-041-30 PRINCESS GENISTA 28 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 9 (1) | 0-041-30 PRINCESS GENISTA 28 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 10 (1) | 0-041-30 PRINCESS GENISTA 28 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |

1987: THREE TAILS 9-1 T Ives (8-1) J Dunlop 6 ran

4.15 COCK OF THE NORTH STAKES (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £7,804; 6f) (8 runners)

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| 1 (4) | 1 ZAKHRIR 14 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 2 (8) | 12321 GOVERNORSHIP 17 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 3 (1) | 222111 RESOLUTE BAY 8 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 4 (3) | BY GEORGE (Mrs B Gittins) R Holmhead 8-12 | G Starkey |
| 5 (7) | 0-0400 KWADRA (S Wessington) J Edwards 8-12 | K Darby |
| 6 (7) | 34-024 SETHURAI 14 (D J G) (P J Egan) G Harwood 4-9-10 | S Causton |
| 7 (1) | 31110 HINDING 32 (S J) (A Burt) L C Nelson 9-0 | A Kibbey |
| 8 (1) | 34 ALWAYS ON A SUNDAY 16 (Roldale Ltd) P Kelloway 9-0 | S Causton |

1987: 4-5 Zakhrir, 7-2 Always On A Sunday, 9-2 Resolute Bay, 8-1 Hinding, 10-1 Donham Grey, 12-1 Sensational, 20-1 Kwadra, 33-1 By George.

Edberg picks himself up to win

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Stefan Edberg got up off the floor, more than once, to achieve an astonishing fifth round knock-out in his semi-final with Miloslav Mecir at Wimbledon yesterday.

With that, Mecir — as inscrutable as ever, but doubtless sick at heart — strode over the net to congratulate a winner who, three times, had looked defeat in the face without flinching.

ninth game Edberg's morale was punctured by a double-fault and three fierce returns. Thus we entered a phase in which Edberg, having served, merely swayed in the draught as a return sped by him — and then turned to take another ball and go through the same routine again.



Wimbledon results, page 39

The fourth set, almost a replica of the third, failed to answer the question, Edberg was serving at 3-1 and 15-40. In the first seven games Mecir had six break points and Edberg only one.

Edberg held service for the set but a series of blazing returns gave Mecir a break to 3-1 in the fifth set. Could Edberg get up off the floor again? He could and he did — whirling about the court with feverish energy to win four games at a cost of only two points.

That left Edberg a break up instead of a break down, and at 3-4 he served for the match. An ace took him to 40-15. Then Mecir lobbed him. Edberg turned to the back of the court, raced, and hit a flat forehand so violently that Mecir — who could not have been much more startled if someone had tossed a grenade straight back to him — dumped a backhand volley into the net.

man who served and volleyed tidily and, for much of the match, produced a series of blazing service returns that challenged belief.

Edberg's service is not to be taken lightly. Not by normal human beings, anyway. But as Edberg loomed to the net in the hope of playing finishing volleys, Mecir's flashing returns came past him like yellow bullets.

Edberg had begun well. He was looking sharp and confident and he was "reading" Mecir's game more easily than most players do. But in the



Running into form: Edberg fights back against Mecir (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Edberg adds steel to his charm Graf ready to win a battle of nerves

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

often, the way it did when Sweden lost the Davis Cup final to Australia in Melbourne last year.

Suddenly, against Mecir yesterday, he dispelled these unworthy thoughts. From two sets down he looked and played like a potential Wimbledon champion.

Mecir is a tormenting opponent, the piercing quality of his game obscured behind his dead-pan demeanour. Yet at 3-3 and 0-40 on service, in the third set, 3-3 and 15-40 on service in the fourth and then 1-3 down in the fifth, Edberg found the character to survive and to win.

It is not, of course, the first time he has done this. In last

year's Australian final, in Cash's home town of Melbourne, he defeated Cash in five sets.

From 1-4 down in the fifth set of the Davis Cup quarter-final this March, he had defeated Mecir 9-7 in the final rubber. Just as he had done against Westphal, of West Germany, in the Davis Cup final of 1986 in Munich.

Edberg is that relatively rare contemporary sportsman: a top performer who wishes to remain anonymous as a person. "I am shy and dull," he has said, self-effacingly, in the past, and there were plenty even in Sweden ready to agree. Wilander received the attention. After he had defeated Kuhnert in Wednesday's quarter-final, Edberg said typically: "I can go about unrecognised in London (where he lives most of the year). I would rather be not known by anybody. It would spoil that if I won Wimbledon."

It is tennis which preoccupies him, not stardom, and for that the game should be grateful: though to win tomorrow's final would change his lifestyle.

I found a charm about the manner of this thrilling, fluctuating match with Mecir. Edberg having seemed dead at two sets down.

Both players accepted doubtful calls without demur, and Mecir was even prepared to walk after an ace that was initially called "fault" in the critical final phase of the match.

How much Navratilova might have gained in public esteem had she, on the disputed match-point against Evert, suggested that they replay the point, instead of acting like a spoiled, \$13 million-rich child.

After knowing and playing Evert for 17 years, she owed her better: though the ball was indeed out, and that old charm Perry insisted he himself would have played to the linesman's call. But not with ill grace, I am sure.

Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova are so evenly matched, in terms of racket skills and athleticism, that the Wimbledon women's singles final will probably be decided by their emotional responses: to the occasion and to each other. On the basis that Navratilova has more at stake and is occasionally prone to nervous inhibitions, I take Graf to win.

Navratilova, four months short of her 32nd birthday, is record-oriented these days and wants to establish a Wimbledon record by winning the title for the ninth time. But she is aware that, because of advancing years, the record probably has to be broken this year if it is to be broken at all. That is an incentive, but is unlikely to help her to relax and play freely.

Since she beat Graf in the United States final last September, Navratilova has been beaten in straight sets by Chris Evert in an Australian semi-final and by Natalia Zvereva in the fourth round of the French championship.

True, Navratilova has won 47 consecutive Wimbledon singles, at a total cost of only five sets, since Hana Mandlikova beat her in a 1981 semi-final. But in her last two matches this week, she has been taken to 7-5 in the third set by Rosalyn Fairbank and Evert in turn. Graf is more formidable.

It is often said, usually in a disparaging way, that Navratilova "plays like a man". What is wrong with

that? Nature endowed her with an unusually strong and athletic physique and — except for her self-indulgent early years — she has exploited that advantage by disciplined dieting, training, and practice.

Navratilova leads Graf 7-3 in their private series and has won their last two matches, in the 1987 Wimbledon and US championships. On the other hand, since the US final, Graf has won 20 consecutive grand slam singles in straight sets (make it 27 if you include the other major event, the Lipton championships).

Graf is halfway towards emulating the feats of Maureen Connolly (1953) and Margaret Court (1970), who both completed a grand slam during a calendar year, and Navratilova (1983-84), who completed the official, modern version of a grand slam by winning the four titles consecutively.

Graf, aged 19, is too young to let the distant prospect of a grand slam weigh on her mind. She has plenty of time for that. At present she is highly trained, supremely confident, and has lost the knack of losing — not that she ever had a taste for it.

In addition to the emotional factor, much may depend on the quality of Navratilova's serving to Graf's backhand. Indeed, both backhands will be severely examined. Graf is a more mature player now than she was a year ago; and I expect her to prove it, to become the first German champion since Cilly Aussem in 1931.

By Rex Bellamy

Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova are so evenly matched, in terms of racket skills and athleticism, that the Wimbledon women's singles final will probably be decided by their emotional responses: to the occasion and to each other. On the basis that Navratilova has more at stake and is occasionally prone to nervous inhibitions, I take Graf to win.

Navratilova, four months short of her 32nd birthday, is record-oriented these days and wants to establish a Wimbledon record by winning the title for the ninth time. But she is aware that, because of advancing years, the record probably has to be broken this year if it is to be broken at all. That is an incentive, but is unlikely to help her to relax and play freely.

Since she beat Graf in the United States final last September, Navratilova has been beaten in straight sets by Chris Evert in an Australian semi-final and by Natalia Zvereva in the fourth round of the French championship.

True, Navratilova has won 47 consecutive Wimbledon singles, at a total cost of only five sets, since Hana Mandlikova beat her in a 1981 semi-final. But in her last two matches this week, she has been taken to 7-5 in the third set by Rosalyn Fairbank and Evert in turn. Graf is more formidable.

It is often said, usually in a disparaging way, that Navratilova "plays like a man". What is wrong with

Nostalgic double acts

Tony Roche played two matches at Wimbledon yesterday. The first was on court four against Tom Gullikson in the semi-final of the 35 and over gentlemen's singles, which he lost 6-3, 6-4 (Richard Evans wins). The second was played from the special little enclosure on the centre court from where coaches and relatives go through the agony of only being able to play each point in their mind.

Ivan Lendl was out there with his Roche-constructed volley attempting to reach the final for the third consecutive time. Twenty years ago Roche made it to the finals himself. It is impossible not to look back when watching Roche's generation play tennis because the over 35 event is all about nostalgia and memories of the sunlit days of youth. But the attraction remains for the Wimbledon crowd, as was witnessed the previous evening when No. 2 was three-quarters full for the doubles that Roche and John Newcombe won over Andrés Gimeno, of Spain, and another one time losing finalist, Dennis Ralston.

France head table after Irish upset

From Jenny MacArthur, Aachen

After a final round almost as dramatic as the storm that halted proceedings for 10 minutes, France, fielding their likely Olympic team, won the Nations' Cup here yesterday and have replaced Britain at the head of the standings for the Gucci Trophy. Ireland, equal first with France at the half-way stage, slumped to sixth after a disastrous final round by their top rider, Eddie Macken, on Carrolls Flight.

Britain, deprived of the last minute of Malcolm Pyrah's Towerlands Anglezarke, who had a mild attack of colic, finished a creditable joint second with West Germany.

Pyrah was replaced by Michael Whitaker and his Olympic short-listed horse, Next Amanda, who, up to her old tricks again, refused at the first water-ditch fence in the opening round.

But Janet Hunter, on Everest Lisnamarrow, and David Broome, on Queensway Countryman, both enhanced their Olympic prospects with two superb performances. Broome, going fourth in the team, found himself in the hot

Seven retained in new-look Council

By David Miller

The shape of Colin Moynihan's proposed leaner, fitter and smaller Sports Council, designed to take British sport into the 1990s, began to emerge yesterday.

The objective is twofold: the separate but equally important needs of international excellence at the top, opportunities and facilities at grassroots. It is a division of intent that the Duke of Edinburgh

apparently did not grasp at the recent CCPR meeting when he had fun at the Minister's expense.

As outlined in these columns in an interview with Moynihan during the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary, the Sports Council is to be streamlined from its present 30 members to 14 or 15. The retention of seven was announced yesterday: John Smith, Sebastian Coe and

Alan Patmore, the chairman and vice-chairmen; Raymond Miquel and John Powell, representing respectively Scotland and Wales; Charles Palmer, of the British Olympic Association, and Ron Ems, of the CCPR.

The five other representatives of the CCPR whose term expired on June 30 are not being reappointed: nor are the various regional chairmen. A single regional chairman

will be appointed, who will chair an executive board of the 10 regional councils.

The board will have consultations three times a year with Moynihan. It will be a key committee within the Council, familiar with local business and local political conditions and determining the direction of grassroots sport.

The most radical change, however, will be the appointment of six new representatives from international sport and high-level business. The sports men or women will be still active: such as, say, Chris Baillicu from rowing (the point lost upon the Duke). The businessmen will be those such as, for example, Tom Fitzpatrick, the chairman of skiing, who understands the essential parallel lines between achievement and finance. All these names will be announced subsequently.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Heal sets record

Jeremy Heal, the British solo yachtsman sailing the 30-foot monohull, Alice's Mirror, has clipped more than five and a half days off the class VI transatlantic record.

He needed two minutes less than 25 days to make the 3,000-mile crossing from Plymouth to Newport.

Jarrett's race

Tony Jarrett, aged 19, the UK 110 metres hurdles champion, races against the world championship medal winners, Jon Ridgeon and Colin Jackson, in the Peugeot Games at Crystal Palace next Friday.

Rovers roam

Hull Kingston Rovers have been given permission by Humberside County Council to build a 15,000-capacity Rugby stadium in east Hull. Rovers have sold Craven Park for a £3.9 million supermarket development, and are expected to move in 1989.

Scoring Streak

David Streek, a Merchiston Castle schoolboy, aged 17, set a Scottish schools cricket record yesterday when he scored 242 — the first century coming in 80 minutes before lunch.

Danish deal

Allan Johansson, the Danish speedway rider, yesterday was signed for Kings Lynn in a £12,000 deal with Hockney.

England bowl well but gain no ground

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD: West Indies, with five first-innings wickets standing, lead England by 107 runs. In other circumstances, England might have claimed a moral victory out of a day like this. They took five West Indian wickets and at no stage allowed the batsmen off a tight rein. The problem is that this was not the first day but the second and England were not so much building their hopes as retrieving a lost cause.

There had been a great deal to deplore about England's cricket on Thursday. Yesterday, there was much to admire. The players, however, rightly rueful over their shambolic batting display, are well aware that it was too little, too late. This third Cornhill Test is heading the same way as the second and there is no conceivable way back from a 2-0 deficit.

The calamitous consequences of Thursday's collapse were evident throughout a day interrupted four times by rain. If England had batted to their potential, which means a score of around 300 instead of their pitiful 135, they might now be in a position to think about winning on a pitch already taking appreciable spin and unlikely to get any easier.

None of the West Indians has yet passed 50 and only the dashing Logie has played with freedom. The most telling evidence of toil came from the captain, Richards. He eventually made 47 but spent the first hour of his innings in, for him, a turmoil. Seldom have I seen a great man look so vulnerable as his natural instinct to dominate was defied by probing seam bowling from one end and, dare we celebrate it, proper spin bowling from the other.

SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

ENGLAND		WEST INDIES	
First Innings			
C G Greenidge lbw b DeFreitas	45	De	45
R B Richardson b Dille	25	De	25
C L Hooper lbw b Childs	16	De	16
T V A Richards b Capel	47	De	47
A L Logie lbw b Dille	39	De	39
T P Dujon not out	25	De	25
R A Harper not out	38	De	38
Extras (lb 14, nb 1)	24		
Total (5 wickets, 81 overs)	242		

M D Marshall, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-77, 3-107, 4-175, 5-187. BOWLING: Dille 15-3-60-2 (lb); Embury 14-4-41-0; DeFreitas 21-2-49-1 (lb); Capel 12-2-38-1; Childs 19-6-50-1. Umpires: D J Constant and N T Plovers.

Fairy-tale comes true for Childs

By Andrew Longmore

At 12.55 p.m. yesterday, John Childs bowled his first ball in Test cricket. If there had been any justice in the world, any romanticism left in cricket, any mid-afternoon he should have taken seven wickets and West Indies should have been bowled out. At the age of 36, and after 13 years in the shadows of the game, surely he deserved that one moment in the sunlight.

Childs cut an unlikely figure on a Test match pitch. He has a farmer's gait and an air of rural indolence which betrays his West Country backgrounds. He bowls off a long, rhythmic run which has seen one or two amendments in its time.

The start of his unlikely Test career looked promising enough. He took just 14 balls to take a wicket. Hooper comprehensively misreading the arm ball to give policeman Nigel Plews his first and, he might reflect in the years to come, his easiest Test leg before decision.

It was a victory not just for England or for Childs, but for the veteran, for the craftsman and for the underdog. When the next ball least past Richards' lungs, the fairy-tale seemed imminent.

Richards looked uncomfortable. He fiddled and fumbled, tried to sweep and hit himself on the chin. It was all a terrible indignity for The Master, and you knew someone would pay in the end. Unfortunately, it was Childs.

After conceding 25 runs in 10 overs, 20 came off the last two of his first Test spell. In truth, Childs has bowled better. Perhaps the nerves got to him. But if only one ball had not shaved Richards' off stump, if only the next one had not flown past slip, it might have been different.

But then again, Mick Cook had not sprayed a leg-break on a boundary rope before the match. Childs would never have had a Test to his name in the first place. The fairy-tale, has already been written.

Benn gets a big chance

Nigel Benn, the unbeaten West Ham middleweight boxer, has been offered the chance to make his American debut in Las Vegas (Srikumar Sen writes). His manager, Frank Warren, has received an offer of \$5,000 (£2,900) to appear on the undercard of the International Boxing Federation middleweight title bout between Frank Tate and Michael Nunn on July 28.

Benn's appearance would mean a double British interest in the promotion, for Benn's rival for British and world honours, Michael Watson, of Islington, has already been booked for the show. Warren, who is in dispute with Benn and suing him for withdrawing at a late stage from his recent promotion at Luton, said: "I have just received the offer and I am passing it on to him."

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